

Tough tactics in jail troubles

Strangeways warders seize riot prisoner

By Staff Reporters

IN AN APPARENT change of tactic, one of the ringleaders of the long-running disturbance at Strangeways Prison in Manchester was snatched by prison officers yesterday amid clear signs that the staff were toughening their approach to the siege.

It came on the same day that authorities at Pucklechurch remand centre near Bath, Avon, sent in prison officers armed with batons and shields to take control of a riot-hit establishment.

A fierce outbreak of disorder was quelled early yesterday as "control and restraint" squads at Pucklechurch fought their way through the severely damaged prison. Five prison officers were hurt, one suffering a broken jaw, and two prisoners were injured.

At one point staff and inmates were said to be locked in "hand-to-hand" conflict with rioters who pelted them with a vicious assortment of improvised missiles.

The 18-hour riot, which began at around 7pm on Sunday night when virtually all the prison's 120 young male prisoners went on the rampage, ended with prison staff cornering a huge body of protesters on a rooftop.

Earlier, Mr Brendan O'Friel, the governor of Strangeways, hinted to journalists that tougher tactics could be employed soon in the siege, which is now in its 24th

day, though it is understood that he and senior prison department officials are still unhappy about the idea of attempting to retake the jail in a dramatic *coup de main*.

However, there was evidence yesterday evening that prison officers, under periodic attack from slate-throwing inmates, were continuing to try to clear a path through the lower floors of those wings still occupied by rioters. At one point another large fire was lit by inmates.

It is expected that staff will heighten the psychological warfare by playing high-pressure hoses on the remaining six inmates more frequently and sounding klaxons. One senior official likened the situation to the Allies' painstaking attempt to winkle German Nazis out of the Italian redoubts of Monte Casino during the Second World War.

The latest prisoner to be returned to "legal custody" was reported to be Alan Lord, who is serving a life sentence for murder. Last night a Home Office spokesman at Strangeways Prison said he had been seized by prison officers at a contact point within the prison. Neither the officers involved sustained any injuries.

Fires started by the remaining inmates, in B and C wings, were put out by firemen who last night continued to play water on the prison through powerful hoses.

The Home Office said the gaol did not mark an important change of policy, but was merely the continuation of plans in which prisoners would be seized if the opportunity arose without the risk of serious injury to staff.

Officials are hoping the capture of Lord, who has been one of the most prominent protesters, will be a blow to the remaining inmates.

The Home Office, in an attempt to clear up a controversy, which has been threatening to divide the governor and his superiors, claimed the decision not to send in riot teams within 24 hours of the disorder erupting had been reached jointly by Mr O'Friel and senior Prison Department officials.

In a radio interview on Saturday Mr Chris Train, the department's director-general, seemed to suggest that Mr O'Friel had blocked calls for force to be used.

"He said it was best to go on Rule 43 because you could stay out of trouble with other prisoners and warders."

At Pucklechurch where, according to a recent Prison Inspectorate report, there is

Museum to lose 46 jobs

Forty-six scientific jobs at the Natural History Museum are to be lost because of a 15 per cent staff cut as part of the management's new corporate plan, unions claimed yesterday.

The museum, however, denied that the jobs were to be lost. "No decisions have been made and nobody is losing their job at this stage," a spokeswoman said. Page 2

Inquest resumes
The inquests into the deaths of the 51 victims of the Marchioness riverboat disaster resumed yesterday despite objections on behalf of bereaved families worried that the possibility of a prosecution may prevent a full hearing. Page 3

Turkish threat
When Mrs Thatcher arrives in Turkey today she will be visiting a country where mounting political violence has prompted fears of a slide back into the chaos that caused the Army to seize power in 1980. Page 11

Borrowing rises
Companies are borrowing more as the economy slows under the weight of high interest rates. Bank of England figures show bank and building society lending to the private sector increased by £9.2 billion last month compared with a £7.3 billion rise in February. Page 25

Goldsmith abandons BAT takeover bid

By Stephen Leather

BRITAIN'S biggest takeover battle ended last night after Sir James Goldsmith called off his £13.4 billion bid for the tobacco-based conglomerate BAT Industries.

His Hoylake investment vehicle abandoned its takeover attempt after a legal battle in the US where he planned to sell a BAT insurance subsidiary to a French financial services company. City experts reckon the bid could have cost Sir James, Lord Rothschild and Mr Kerry Packer nearly £40 million.

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Sir James Goldsmith: £13.4 billion bid dropped

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Giving up: One of the Pucklechurch inmates surrenders to prison officers in riot gear sent in to end the siege.

Shares hit by Kohl Ostmark decision

From Ian Murray
Berlin

HERR Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, brushed aside the economic arguments of the powerful Bundesbank yesterday and took the political but expensive decision to convert East Germany's nearly worthless Ostmarks into strong Deutschmarks at parity.

The move immediately weakened the DM and sent West German share and bond prices lower, with fears that monetary union will boost inflation and put a fiscal burden of up to DM 30 billion a year on West Germany adding to nervousness about the Lithuanian situation.

The mark ended the day at DM 1.6973 to the dollar, down almost a cent. In Frankfurt the index of leading shares fell 46.83 to 1,837.50.

The Chancellor's decision, which fulfils half promises he made during the East German election campaign last month, opens the way to negotiations on reunification between the two governments.

Herr Lothar de Maizière, the East German Prime Minister, told Herr Kohl on the telephone yesterday that the parity offer was "interesting".

The two men will meet in Bonn today to begin the first purposeful discussions on unification.

The Bundesbank had wanted to exchange at two Ostmarks to the DM, but the Government believed it would be difficult to negotiate currency and economic union on such terms.

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Tunnel work speeds up

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

HALF the Channel Tunnel has been bored and lined but another £2 billion will have to be raised to complete the project by June 1993, Mr Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's deputy chairman, announced yesterday.

As of Saturday, 75.7 kilometres of tunnel has been completed. This includes three of the 12 tunnel segments and breakthrough on the service tunnel is now expected in November — one month ahead of schedule.

The additional funding is needed to cover increased construction and borrowing costs and to avoid the embarrassment of having to ask for more funds should costs rise still further, Mr Morton said.

The magnitude of the cost overruns is a source of profound concern to Eurotunnel, and is at the root of our strong differences with TML," he

said. He added that the dispute did not prevent him from seeing the "remarkable achievements" of the past 12 months.

The TML-Eurotunnel dispute arises largely from conflicting estimates over the cost of building the two Channel Tunnel terminals near Calais and Folkestone. Increased costs of equipment, however, account for a significant portion of the overrun.

TML's tunnelling costs are also up by about £500 million more than anticipated, largely because of the need to employ an additional 300 to 400 workers as the length of the tunnel increases.

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Even the KGB succumbs to privatization

By David Young

THE PRIVATE eye slipped off his grubby mack, a more than usually ill-fitting version in this case, and reached for the bottle of vodka at the bottom of his desk-drawer.

That's right, vodka. Not borbon or 12-year-old Scotch just off the boat. This private eye works in Moscow, is KGB-trained and is the latest member of the Association of British Investigators.

The ABI, founded 77 years ago by a former Scotland Yard detective, has always been able to boast members from Birmingham to Bombay, from Venezuela and Vancouver. Its latest member is Mr Valentin Kosyakov, an ex-KGB officer, who has set up his own private investigation bureau with branches in Moscow and Leningrad. His new company provides a full

range of private investigation facilities, from security vetting to missing persons tracing — there is quite a bit of scope for the missing-persons business in Russia, the ABI points out with considerable understatement.

Membership of the ABI will give its new company, the Alex Agency, new links with established private investigators in Britain and throughout Europe through the ABI's affiliation to the Internationale Kommission d'Detektiv-Verband.

Although he is the first Russian member, the ABI has also had inquiries from new private investigation agencies in Poland and Hungary, where private agencies are taking over responsibility for many aspects of the security system which were previously handled by the state. Agencies are also providing services for the new

breed of private entrepreneurs who need bodyguards when travelling with large amounts of cash.

Mr Kosyakov has been in touch with the ABI for some time and now that his membership has been approved, after a check on his educational qualifications, references and discharge documents from the KGB, he plans to attend its next training seminar in Kenilworth later this year.

The Alex Agency, a co-operative venture headed by Mr Kosyakov, is the first private investigation bureau of its kind in the Soviet Union and is staffed by former KGB workers, officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the public. It offers legal consultations as well as protection from the racketeers who have emerged as the free-market economy

gathers pace. But Mr Kosyakov has made a firm rule that he will have no dealings with what he describes as shady characters and the criminal classes. In that respect he meets the ABI membership criteria.

The association has been attempting, during its 77 years' existence, to be recognized by the Home Office. At present it estimates that only 450 out of the 4,500 working in the private investigating business in Britain are members.

Mr Norman Smith, a member of its governing council and its education and training officer, said: "Private investigators all over the world recognize the worth of being members of the ABI. But in Britain itself anyone taking the name of a private investigator from the telephone book is taking a leap in the dark."

Clarke gives embryos Bill his support

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

MR KENNETH Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, yesterday emphasized his personal support for continuing research on human embryos up to 14 days old under strict conditions.

As MPs started two days of debate on experiments on human embryos and abortion, Mr Clarke argued strongly against banning all research. He said the moral duty of respecting the sanctity of human life was compatible with the moral duty of carrying out research to alleviate suffering and disease.

MPs will have a free "conscience" vote to decide whether to follow the Lords and vote in favour of licensed research. Although Mr Clarke said he would support research, he made clear he would respect the final judgement of the Commons.

Campaigners for and against continuing experiments have fiercely lobbied MPs as they embarked on the committee stage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, based on the 1984 Warnock report. Peers have voted nearly three to one in favour of embryo research.

A recent telephone survey of 383 MPs found that 60 per cent would back research on embryos up to 14 days with only 28 per cent wanting a ban and 12 per cent undecided.

Mr Clarke said research offered the hope of helping childless couples, finding cures for congenital diseases, miscarriages and abnormalities in genes and finding better methods of contraception.

"I believe that as long as embryo research is done openly and within the framework of strict statutory controls such as are laid down in this Bill, the benefits which are held in promise by that research should not be withheld from those who wish to take advantage of it," he said.

Miss Jo Richardson, Labour's frontbench spokesman on women's affairs, backed research, saying: "We are not talking about a cluster of cells; we are talking about human life and as such should be protected."

Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP and Father of the House, made an impassioned speech against research, saying: "We are not talking about a cluster of cells; we are talking about human life and as such should be protected."

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Firms overcharged by up to £100,000 on telephone bills

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

AN "ALARMING" catalogue of widespread overcharging by Britain's two leading telephone companies was disclosed in a study published yesterday.

Mistakes of up to £100,000 in a single company account are being blamed on inaccurate invoicing, aggravated by impenetrable, scanty or confusing bills. The survey, carried out by the Telecommunications Managers Association, says that resolving discrepancies is often a time-consuming and frustrating process.

The study showed that companies were charged for calls and faxes that had not been made and others were billed for rental equipment before it was installed. "The lack of confidence in the accuracy of these bills is now so widespread that the investigation

and correction of errors is absorbing a disproportionate amount of management effort," Mr Adrian Squires, director of the association, said. "There cannot be many other suppliers who would be permitted to perpetrate this level of inaccuracy in billing."

The findings come amid mounting concern over British Telecom's profits on international calls through the alleged use of a price-fixing agreement with foreign countries. A leaked document claims that the company is making nearly a 60 per cent profit on overseas calls when new technologies and increased traffic have cut operating costs.

Mr Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, yesterday accused the company of "baiting profiteering". Price cartels between national telephone companies are illegal under Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome.

The survey, which questioned more than 100 members of the managers association including Rank, Midland Bank, Shell and ICI, is likely to intensify concern over the activities of Britain's main telephone company. The British Telecom/Mercury duopoly runs out in November after which the Government may license further national telephone operators.

Although the survey focuses on the plight of commercial customers, the association said the findings were also relevant to domestic bills. British Telecom has attacked the report as "unscientific and highly misleading".

Nearly 90 per cent of the companies questioned, representing many of British Telecom's major national and international customers, said they had been overcharged in the past year. Nearly half said they had been overcharged by Mercury Communications, although there was general approval for Mercury's itemized billing system.

Those who managed to escape from the two lower decks did so through windows or through a door on the port side that the mate of the Marchioness, Mr Andrew McGowan, held open. Captain de Coveney said that Mr McGowan, who had been thrown in to the water but had managed to climb back on board, had acted "gallantly".

Many customers of both companies complained about the time it took to check their bills.

Owner 'knew dogs likely to attack'

THE owner of three Rottweilers which attacked children in a school knew they were likely to attack if let loose, Enfield magistrates' court was told yesterday.

Mrs Doris Brown, aged 46, of Enfield, north London, has denied three charges of allowing an unmissed, ferocious dog to be at large. The charges relate to an attack on children at Bishop Stopford secondary school in Enfield on February 14.

Mr Stuart Frost, for the prosecution, said the three dogs were let out by Mrs Brown into her garden shortly before 8am on February 14 but within 10 minutes they had escaped. He said that two days earlier two of the dogs had escaped and Mrs Brown had told police that although they were normally placid they could bite someone.

He said five schoolboys aged between 11 and 13 were injured in the school and playground. Most of the boys suffered lacerations and puncture wounds to their arms, buttocks and legs, he said.

The case continues today.

Mr McGowan: Praised
for acting gallantly



The selection panel for the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London studies a work submitted for inclusion. Thousands of would-be exhibits will pass fleetingly before them. Pictured are (from left): Ian Stephenson, Roger de Grey, Anthony Green, Michael Kenny and Sir Sidney Nolan

Dissent and devious play on the polo pitch

By Paul Wilkinson

QUESTIONS over the parental background of a soccer referee or the necessity for him to consult his oculist are an everyday feature of football. Cricket, too, has been touched by the Mike Gatting approach to umpiring decisions, but it now seems that even the most gentlemanly pursuit of polo is being debased by dissent and devious play.

"This unsatisfactory state of affairs must not be allowed to continue," Major Ferguson writes in *Horses and Hounds* magazine. He says the association will "stand no nonsense". The umpires themselves are partly to blame, he says.

Some from South America take an attitude which is far "too casual" while their British colleagues occasionally allow themselves to be intimidated. Colonel Robert French-Blake, chief executive of the Guards Polo Club at Smith's Lawn in the Royal grounds of Windsor Great Park, said the problem lay with increased pressures in the sport.

"There is a lot of money from sponsors invested in polo these days, especially at the highest level of high-goal polo. So there is a lot of incentive to be on the winning side," he said.



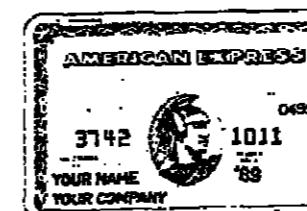
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Drunk driver killed three

A DRUNK driver wearing a Tarzan costume killed three people in a high-speed crash as he tried to escape from police officers, a judge at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Neil Cuthbert, aged 31, was on his way home from a fancy dress party in his BMW when police officers instructed him to pull over. Cuthbert, who had drunk three pints of lager and two glasses of punch, put his foot down and roared away from the Panda car at a terrifying speed. Mr Simon Pratt, for the prosecution, said:

Minutes later his car hit an Austin Metro, killing the driver and two passengers. A police reconstruction estimated his speed on impact as at least 78mph. When asked by police why he had tried to get away, Cuthbert said: "I didn't need the hassle."

Cuthbert, a manager for a joinery company of Waddon, south London, was jailed for four years and banned from driving for five years when he admitted causing the deaths of two young women and a young man by reckless driving.

He was told by Judge Denison QC: "You have, by your driving on this occasion, devastated three families. You may well have gone some way towards devastating your own life." The judge added: "This was driving of an appalling nature at a very high speed affected by drink in excess of the legal limit."

The court was told the crash occurred in Traps Lane, New Malden, south-west London, in the early hours of August 13 last year. The victims, aged 18 to 20, were on their way home from a disco. A fourth person in the car had made a full recovery.

Vote to cut abortions to 22 weeks predicted

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Anti-abortion campaigners predicted yesterday that a reduction in the legal time-limit to at least 22 weeks is "certainly" in tonight's series of Commons votes on the issue. They gave a pledge to let their unrelenting campaign drop until after the next general election if they succeed in lowering the limit beyond 24 weeks.

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, called for an investigation into how hundreds of plastic "foetuses" were sent to MPs over the weekend by anti-abortion campaigners.

As both sides mobilized for a voting marathon, beginning at 11 pm tonight, Miss Ann Widdecombe, Conservative MP for Maidstone, said that a thorough canvass of MPs revealed that "comfortably more than 300" favoured a 22-week limit. "Twenty weeks is a possibility but not a probability. Twenty-two weeks looks like a certainty."

Miss Widdecombe said that her campaign had contacted all MPs, except those who were known to be hardline opponents. Most had sent back statements with signatures, the others had been personally interviewed. "It comes out at a fairly large majority for 22 weeks," she said. Some 75 per cent had responded to a question on whether they would be present for the voting and the overwhelming majority of those had said they would.

Miss Widdecombe said that

Lower limit a danger to women'

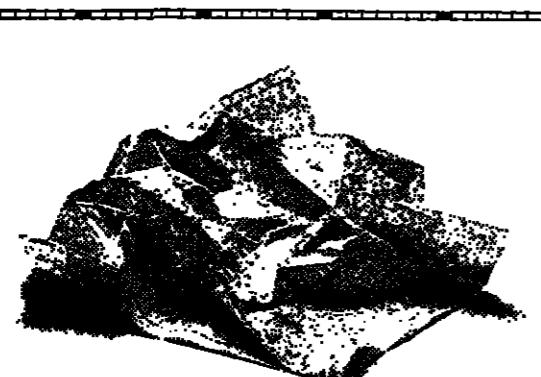
A GROUP of Britain's leading obstetricians and gynaecologists issued a warning today that the proposed reduction in the upper time limit on abortion to below 24 weeks' gestation would endanger the health of some women (Thomson Prentice writes).

Twenty-five specialists, including 12 professors, say in a letter to *The Times* that such a move would force some women to continue a pregnancy in the face of a serious threat to their health, or in spite of a grave abnormality in the foetus. MPs could vote in favour of the proposal tonight.

"Gynaecologists need to retain the discretion they currently have to perform late abortions on the relatively rare occasions when this is necessary," the specialists say.

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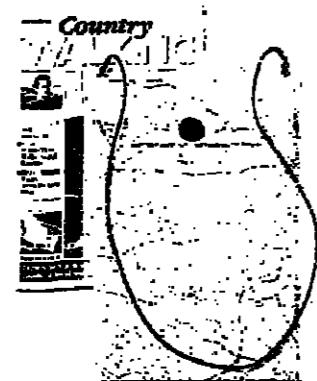
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Battler for unborn is happy to use shock tactics

MRS Phyllis Bowman, a veteran anti-abortion campaigner, relishes the flinches among MPs and the public at her somewhat macabre method of lobbying (Lin Jenkins writes).

In promoting the cause of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) in the present round of the abortion debate, she has had life-size models of a 20-week-old foetus sent to MPs. The move was typical of Mrs Bowman's uncompromising style. There is no room for thoughts that people might be squeamish or offended. Their response simply proves that they had imagined a foetus to be something other than the "technical term" for a baby.

Opponents see the tactics of fundamentalist fervour. Indeed, Mrs Bowman, now 64, and a founder member of the society in 1967, has the hallmarks of the fundamentalist.

As a childless, and infertile, Roman Catholic, she would appear to come from the traditional recruitment ground for anti-abortionists.

However, it is a charge she dismisses with glee. "At the beginning," she says, "I was living in sin and I was agnostic. There was not a Catholic among us when we began."

She was living with Mr Gerry Bowman, a fellow journalist, "a roast-beef man and pale pink Tory," whom she had met when she was 26. The man she calls "Gerry one" died of an old RAF injury five months after their eventual marriage and she is now married to "Jerry two", Mr Jerry Carty, a society campaigner and British Telecom engineer.

She has cited from many a platform her early experiences to show that she is no "iron-bound moralist". It was while she was writing on medical topics that her involvement with the first big survey into stillbirths and infant death led to the setting up of the society. Gradually, it took over and in the late 1970s she abandoned journalism.

Quite where her zeal comes



Mrs Phyllis Bowman, the veteran anti-abortion campaigner, showing models of what she claims to be a 20-week foetus (left) and a 23-24 week foetus

from is difficult to define. Jews, that did not make it right", she says, and on pregnancy in rape, "abortion after rape is the body being assaulted for the second time".

Leaflets are equally direct. A photograph of a disarming appeal baby in the womb at 18 weeks was a pivot of the campaign for many years, despite complaints that it is sounds very woolly in light of the plastic foetus syndrome, but we are dealing with the real world. There is really no middle ground on which to debate this issue with them. They simply plan to chip away at the legislation until there is nothing left and abortion is illegal.

The main proposal to be debated in the Commons, that of reducing the legal cut-off date for abortion from 28 weeks to 24, was he believed, spurious. Out of more than 160,000 abortions in 1988 just 23 took place after 24 weeks, and 19 of those were because the focus was abnormal.

In practice, there is a limit being operated at 24 weeks anyway," Mr Jones said. "It is pointless to change the law and we have to maintain sensible exceptions. One of the reasons we have so many late terminations in this country is because of the in-built delays in the system."

Mr Jones takes a reasoned and factual approach, and says: "Evangelical zeal is traditionally a trait of those who want change to be more vociferous, but if they think they occupy the moral high ground they are mistaken," she said.

The Commons debate on embryo research

Clarke sees a basic question of right or wrong

THE present law does not prevent embryo experiments and therefore scientists could legally undertake any research for any purpose, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, told MPs yesterday.

Opening a Commons debate, he said that researchers could attempt to create hybrids between human and The House was debating an amendment to the Bill which would ban all embryo research. MPs will have a free vote. The House of Lords has already voted in favour of research on embryos up to 14 days old.

The intention of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill now before the Commons was to apply new legal constraints on embryo research, either by prohibiting it altogether or by permitting it in certain, closely specified circumstances under a statutory system of licensing and control.

The House was debating an amendment to the Bill which would ban all embryo research. MPs will have a free vote. The House of Lords has already voted in favour of research on embryos up to 14 days old.

Mr Clarke said that the issue to be decided was whether or not research being done in this country on human embryos should be allowed to continue. That required a decision on the fundamental question of right and wrong.

The debate would deal with basic moral issues on which many strong and widely differing views were held and it was incumbent on MPs to examine the issue closely, calmly and rigorously before each individual decided as a matter of conscience which way to vote.

At an earlier stage he had said that the legislative position on embryo research was unsatisfactory. Since then he had been asked why it was unsatisfactory.

"In short it is the fact that there is no law at all on the subject. Researchers may legally undertake any research they wish and for any purpose they wish. For example, they could attempt to create hybrids between human and animals or clone individuals legally."

The fact that such experiments were not being done was simply because of the sense of responsibility of scientists and clinicians in following voluntary guidelines laid down by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

The present position, therefore, was that embryo research was lawful. The intention of the legislation was to apply new legal constraints on embryo research, either by

a result of a research programme?"

For his part, he could not accept that the early embryo was a human personality, with which he could identify a person to whom the criminal law must give protection. He was influenced by the tiny size of the embryo and by the undoubted fact that a high proportion of embryos at this stage perished naturally in any event.

Those in favour of research argued that it could promote advances in the treatment of infertility, increase knowledge about the causes of congenital disease and knowledge about the causes of miscarriage.

It could develop more effective techniques of contraception and more effective methods for detecting the presence of gene or chromosome abnormalities in embryos before implantation.

There was a gulf which could not be bridged in the end between those who could not countenance research on human embryos and those who believed that, with proper controls, it could be justified.

He had never made any secret of his own views. The emergence of a human being from cells that carried the potential for life was a continuous process. He did not think there was a single moment at which he found himself able to say easily that a human life, the life of a citizen, an individual human being, actually began.

As a lawyer, he believed that the law should begin to give full protection to life and limb at a very much later stage than the emergence of the primitive streak. That stage seems the logical stage at which to give the potential human being protection against being the subject of research.

"As long as embryo research is done openly and within the framework of strict statutory controls, such as laid down in this Bill, the benefits which are

grossly offensive and distasteful.

He asked for instructions to be issued so that it did not happen again and that the models which had arrived should be sent back. (Some cheers and protests.)

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) suggested that Sir Geoffrey Howe, leader of the House, as chairman of the services committee, should investigate the sending through the post to all MPs of fetus-like models.

Mr Timothy Devlin (Stockton South, C) said that at 9 o'clock this morning half the floor-space of the Commons Post Office had been taken up with parcels the size of large shoe boxes containing grotesque models which had been mailed to all MPs.

These had been opened by MPs but in some cases by female secretaries and research assistants, some of whom had suffered miscarriages and other problems relating to children. It

ANDY WATTS

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY WATTS

Choice lobby is staying cool in face of fire

By Lin Jenkins

THOSE who support a woman's right to choose have avoided the temptation to enter a battle of words, or grotesque images, with the anti-abortion lobby.

Comfortable with the current legislation and the way it is operated and monitored, they believe that the shock tactics of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child will do little to damage their cause.

The raging debate of the 1960s - when their message was of appalling cases of women having babies against their will or reporting to homespun methods of abortion that resulted in dreadful mutilation, has long subsided.

Mr Ian Jones, director of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, which conducts about a third of the abortions outside the NHS, said: "Our approach is really to stay out of the debate and continue to meet women's needs. It sounds very woolly in light of the plastic foetus syndrome, but we are dealing with the real world. There is really no middle ground on which to debate this issue with them. They simply plan to chip away at the legislation until there is nothing left and abortion is illegal."

"We are not living in an ideal world where people can get pregnant, carry on and have the baby and then everything is okay," she said. "There are an awful lot of women who have benefited from the legislation and are glad to have had the choice."

"It is our policy to avoid emotional arguments. When the debate takes that turn you don't get women to alter the way they behave, you merely make them feel worse."

Mrs Roe said: "You have to consider the mothers, they have rights too, and it does not help to get people's feelings whipped up by pictures of tiny little feet in the womb or bizarre models."

Mrs Diane Munday, aged 59, a mother of three who has for many years debated in public against anti-abortionists, feels it is difficult to argue against those whose views are founded in religious belief. "Obviously those who want change are going to be more vociferous, but if they think they occupy the moral high ground they are mistaken," she said.

handicap. The recent breakthrough at Hammersmith Hospital, where doctors have discovered ways of detecting male and female genes and can use the information to prevent handicap, was a world first. Had the research been banned, as opponents wanted, then the happy mothers and husbands would have been denied this chance.

The responsibility upon MPs in this debate was very heavy. The Lords had shown the way by voting three-to-one for research to continue under controlled conditions. They said that research should be beneficial in the future and should be creative rather than destructive.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C) said that the practice of provision of IVF was not at stake. It would continue and was not an issue they were discussing, or that they should be discussing.

Mr Kenneth Clarke: What is his position where, for example, the sex of an embryo has been established and there is a genetic disorder that can be suffered by a male and not by a female? Does he accept that a female should be implanted and a male allowed to perish?

Sir Bernard Braine: I am not going to be drawn. We are

dealing with a question of life or death.

IVF would continue whether or not there was a ban on research. The 1989 report of the Interim Licensing Authority had said that there had been substantial improvements in the efficiency of IVF through better methods of regulating the development of eggs and simpler procedures for their collection. He was advised that research could be carried out on sperm and eggs rather than killing and disposing of embryos.

"We are often led to believe by numerous newspaper articles and television that IVF is a tried and tested procedure which can guarantee parents who may be at risk that they can have a normal child. That is a cruel deceit. I say that in full knowledge of the facts. The pro-experimentation lobby are not able to name a single genetic disease treatment which has been helped by embryo research." Lady Warnock had said when her report was published that 14 days would do for a start.

They were being led to legislate for a beginning. There was no great success to be achieved in the first 14 days. After that, maybe, but then they were in a different ball-

For ASPIRIN pain relief TAKE ANADIN

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ANADIN
FAST PAIN RELIEF
EASY TO SWALLOW**

The one to Trust

*Trade mark

Mailed foetus models 'should be sent back'

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) suggested that Sir Geoffrey Howe, leader of the House, as chairman of the services committee, should investigate the sending through the post to all MPs of fetus-like models.

He asked for instructions to be issued so that it did not happen again and that the models which had arrived should be sent back. (Some cheers and protests.)

The Speaker said that he had received many complaints and had a letter from the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms saying that the models had been stamped and therefore had to be taken in. Some had been accepted by MPs and some not, and the latter would be sent back.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, Lib Dem) said that it was the legitimate right of any citizen to lobby their MP and that right had to be upheld.

These had been opened by MPs but in some cases by female secretaries and research assistants, some of whom had suffered miscarriages and other problems relating to children. It

مكتبة الأهل

choice lobby
staying on
face of

By Lin Jenkins

Subtle lesson in tolerance at heart of race dispute

The Government's decision to uphold the right of white parents to move their children from schools with a high proportion of Asian or black children has raised concern about racism in classrooms. Sally Brompton visited the school at the centre of the controversy

THE children of the Abingdon Road infants' school in Middlesbrough were engrossed in their morning's lesson. In groups of three and four they were trying to figure out how to turn sheets of newspaper into carrier bags.

The task involved a considerable amount of thumb-sucking and trial and error. It was, however, more than a test of enterprise; it was part of the school's policy to teach children to work and play together, whatever their race or culture.

The children arrived for the first day of term yesterday morning, skipping along the pavement in groups that had nothing to do with racial segregation. A small blonde girl held hands with her Asian best friend. Parents arrived with teams of children across the racial mix; the majority of the pupils are Pakistan-Asian but there are also children from Malaya, Somalia, Afghanistan, Russia, Libya and the Ukraine.

The children in the carrier bag project were too young to appreciate the subtle form of tolerance tuition, but it was a poignant postscript to the fact that Abingdon Road infants' is at the heart of the Government's decision to support white parents who choose to take their children out of schools with large numbers of black and Asian pupils.

While education authorities consider the long-term implications of what has been described by community relations experts as "the first step to educational apartheid in Britain", the parents and teachers are concerned about the immediate effects on the children in their care.

"I do think we have to work at ensuring that our children respect and are tolerant of others and I do believe an understanding of different religions and different cultures is important," Mrs Barbara Hudson, headmistress at the school, said. "I can think of nothing worse for children than listening to us talking about Christmas when they have no understanding of what it is."

Mrs Hudson has suffered months of sleepless nights over the case which revolves around Katrice Curney, aged five, whose mother demanded that she be moved to another school after she went home singing a nursery rhyme in Punjabi. The headmistress said the incident, which occurred around harvest festival of 1987, was the result of the spontaneous reaction of one of the children who joined in with the Punjabi version of *One potato, two potatoes*.

"It is not our job to instill into the children any one culture or religion," Mrs Hudson said. "That is the parents' job. The majority of work we do on religion and culture is in teaching the children how to deal with being angry or cross, which all helps to bring about tolerance and self-image."

The parents of the 240 children aged between three and seven — of whom 60 per cent belong to ethnic minorities — are supportive of her attitude towards encouraging multiracial education. They take their problems to her.

Leading article, page 17

£300,000 'deposit' for Jaguar XJ220

By Paul Wilkinson

AN ANONYMOUS motorist has spent £300,000 for the privilege of a place on the waiting list for one of the world's most sought-after performance cars. The money will merely give him the chance to pay the £350,000-plus purchase price when the vehicle is finally delivered sometime in 1992.

The 200-mph Jaguar XJ220 has yet to enter full production but the rarity of the luxury model has been assured by the manufacturers' decision to build only 350 examples. Rare car specialists around the world are bidding over each other to have one.

One of them, a Japanese electronics billionaire, aged 37, has now ensured his ownership by buying the option held by a City of London businessman. This expensive queue-jumping has thwarted efforts by Jaguar to cut the black market which springs up around such a vehicle.

The car-makers set up a vetting process to check the 1,400 genuine offers to purchase in the hope that the cars would go to real enthusiasts instead of speculators. Of the 350 cars to be built, 100 were reserved for British buyers with the rest going abroad.



Holly relics fail to move bidders

A BIG collection of Buddy Holly memorabilia had a mixed reception from rock enthusiasts in a £36,355 sale at Phillips in London yesterday (John Shaw writes).

The two main lots, a grey mohair suit worn on *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* in 1958 and one of his guitars, failed to reach their reserves. The guitar, another

collection owned by Mr David Howey included such items as a high-school spelling test, which was bought for

£1,540 by Paul Hipp, who plays Holly in a London musical. He also purchased a signed publicity postcard from Coral Records, for £1,650. Holly's leather zip-up school binder made the top price of £6,050.

It was, though, a low-key start to a week of pop and rock sales at the three main auction houses.

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Judge apologizes over criticism of solicitors' firm

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A CROWN Court judge yesterday took the rare step of issuing a public apology for critical remarks he made about a leading firm of London solicitors.

Judge Stable, QC, said that he regretted any stain on the reputation of the firm, Offenbach and Co, which he accused last year of "extortion" and unprofessional conduct after it charged a client £2,500. He said at the time that the case could have been dealt with more cheaply at a magistrates' court.

Yesterday, at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, where he has been senior circuit judge since 1982, Judge Stable, said: "The whole matter has now been investigated thoroughly and it is clear that my accusations were entirely unwarranted and should not have been made. I now wish to make it crystal clear that my accusations were unjustified."

The judge, aged 67, said that he accepted that the West End solicitors had behaved in a "proper and professional manner throughout" and concurred with the findings of the Law Society's adjudication committee, which investigated Offenbach of any impropriety.

At the hearing, last August, Offenbach advised an accu-

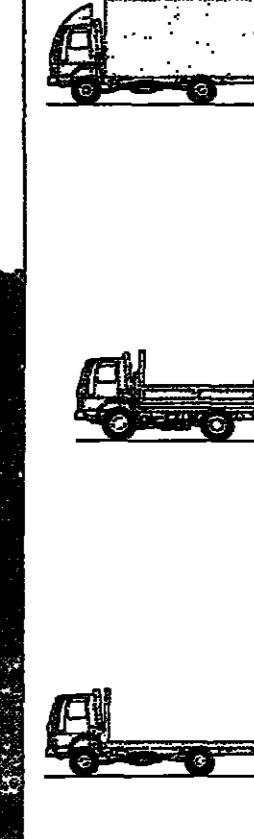
tant charged with gross indecency to seek a Crown Court trial and said that his defence costs, which he was meeting himself, would be about £2,500. However, just before the trial, the man changed his plea to guilty.

Judge Stable said that it was "a gross piece of extortion" to require £2,500 from the man to arrange his defence on a plea of guilty "or even not guilty". The Law Society said yesterday that it trusted that "judges will in future refrain from such criticism of solicitors".

Judge Stable made his comments last year a few weeks after a statement had been issued on behalf of the president of the Law Society that solicitors should be given the opportunity to be heard if they are to be criticized in open court. The statement was issued in the wake of criticism of a legal firm by Mr Justice Henry.

His comments were raised with the Lord Chancellor's Department by the Law Society and by Offenbach.

Simultaneously, Judge Stable lodged a complaint against the firm with the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, but the adjudication committee cleared Offenbach of any unprofessional conduct.



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*Transport News, February 1990; Commercial Motor, 6-12 October 1990.

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Highland foresters win the green laurels

A GROUP which dreams of restoring the Great Wood of Caledon, the ancient forest that once covered the Highlands of Scotland, is the winner of this year's £5,000 Environment Award, jointly sponsored by *The Times* and *PM*, BBC Radio 4's evening news programme.

Readers and listeners gave the award to Ron Greer and the Loch Garry Tree Group, whose tree-planting in all weathers, including snow, is proving that the dream can be realized.

The group believes that Scotland's most cherished landscapes, the bare heather-clad hills of the Highlands, are really a monument to environmental failure, and are attempting to restore the broadleaved woodlands of alder, birch and rowan that covered them for thousands of years until they were cut down by man.

The group's success in growing thousands of trees at an altitude of 1,400ft on the shores of Loch Garry, in Perthshire, has proved that it is only the grazing by sheep and red deer that prevents the ancient forest from returning.

Yesterday Mr Greer, a fisheries researcher, who founded the group, was delighted at the news of success. "It proves that the public realizes that what happens to our last great wildernesses, such as those in the Highlands, is a core issue," he said. "The importance



to have won. I woke up this morning in a really good mood and by 11.30 I had caught an 8lb salmon in the River Tummel — so I knew it was going to be a good day." Second place went to the Kirkstall Valley Campaign, an action group on the edge of Leeds trying to ensure that the partly derelict, but richly green, valley of the River Aire is redeveloped in a sensitive way, according to the wishes of local people.

Third was Mrs Janet White, a hill farmer in the Quantocks in Somerset, who looks after a rich heritage of wildlife as well as her sheep.

They were followed by Mr Bob Hopkins, a worker at the Conoco Oil Refinery at Immingham, on Humberside. He has created a nature reserve on refinery land used by local schools, while the children of the Hull Group of Watch, the junior wildlife club of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, are looking after Britain's largest colony of frogs.

The four runners-up will all receive prizes of £250 each, and the award will be presented by Dr Richard Leesley, head of the Kenyan Wildlife Service, at Broadcasting House on May 8.

Calling for a national policy on waste, he said that 850,000 commercial organizations in the United Kingdom are polluting our waters, air and soil. "The Bill seems to us to touch only margin-



High hopes: Ron Greer and the Loch Garry Tree Group working in the snow to restore the forests of Perthshire

ally on some of the most important aspects of these pollution problems... There are little or no substantial plans for the disposal of thousands of landfill sites containing toxic waste that have been abandoned and left untreated."

He called for regeneration and recycling to remove eye-sores and curb the demand for landfill sites.

At a conference hosted by the *Financial Times* in London, Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, the junior environment minister, urged firms to publish statements spelling out their environmental policies. More information was vital, he said, if people were to be able to make informed choices.

Your votes are helping to make a dream of restoring the familiar and cherished heather-clad hills of Scotland to broad-leaved woodland come true, reports Michael McCarthy

of the Highlands is out of all scale to the small population which lives there."

The £5,000 prize money would be used as pump-priming to obtain further planting grants, he said, especially those given by the Forestry Commission for the new native pinewoods.

Mr Greer said: "It's wonderful

"Business is already sensitive to the demand from consumers for green products. The prizes will go to those who follow, anticipate and even lead consumer preference for environmentally friendly goods and services," he said. "Those who do not will increasingly lose their competitive edge."

conundrums can masquerade as the most simple.

The final 10 school teams and the 110 finalists will meet the challenge using the same rules as had been used in the initial stage of the Tournament. Mensa has devised the questions using the *Collins English Dictionary* (second edition) and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (15th edition). The winning school team will be decided from the results of these five rounds. The individual finalists with the top 10 scores will take part in a timed play-off final in London on May 14.

The students are playing for a Hewlett Packard computer, a commemorative plaque and the kudos for their school. The individuals are playing for £5,000 and a trophy. Only those who have been notified as finalists may enter the final rounds, using either the answer sheets forwarded or these coupons, but any other would-be Mensa candidates are welcome to try the questions for their own satisfaction.

1 DIAGRAMS

The grid contains the letters that make up the title of a book written in 1902. One letter, however, is a dummy letter and is, therefore, not used. You must read the title from square to touching square. Who wrote the book?

2 VERBAL

This letter square is missing seven vowels and eight consonants. Complete the square using English words which read the same downwards as they do across.

B	D	I	A	N
T	R	N	T	I
O	H	B	R	A
S	E	I	I	
A	S	H	S	T

V	O	I	C	E
O	-	-	-	-
I	-	-	-	-
C	-	-	-	-
E	-	-	-	L

3 LOGIC

What is the proverb you will find by breaking this code?
16 26 15 6 20 26 15 23 11 16 26 17 22
4 19 21 20 10 8 14 3 17

4 MATHS

Four vehicles, each with the same number of wheels, are driven for two hours and then stopped. Vehicle A has a tyre radius of 45cm and travels at 80kph; vehicle B has a tyre radius of 25cm and travels at 44.4kph; vehicle C has a tyre radius of 70cm and travels at 122kph while vehicle D has a tyre diameter of 120cm and travels at 105kph. Which vehicle's wheels made the most revolutions in the two hours and how many revolutions did one of its wheels make?

MISCELLANY

What is the other name given to the Battle Above The Clouds, which took place in the 19th century?



Cut out this coupon and keep your answers until Round 5. Answers will be accepted on coupons published in *The Times*.

PUZZLES

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

Answer 3 _____

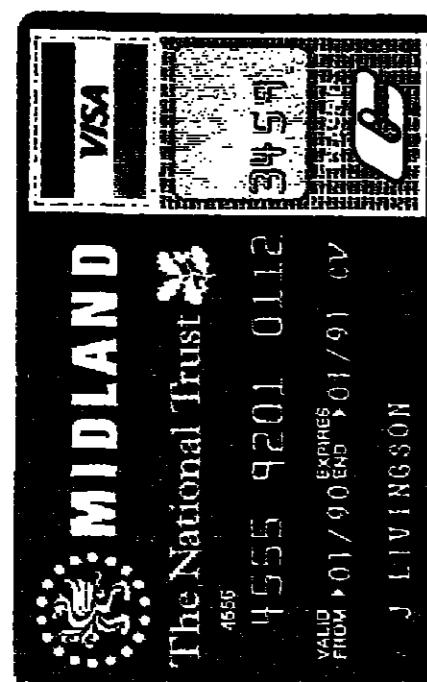
Answer 4 _____

MISCELLANY

Answer _____

Name: _____

PLASTIC THAT'S GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.



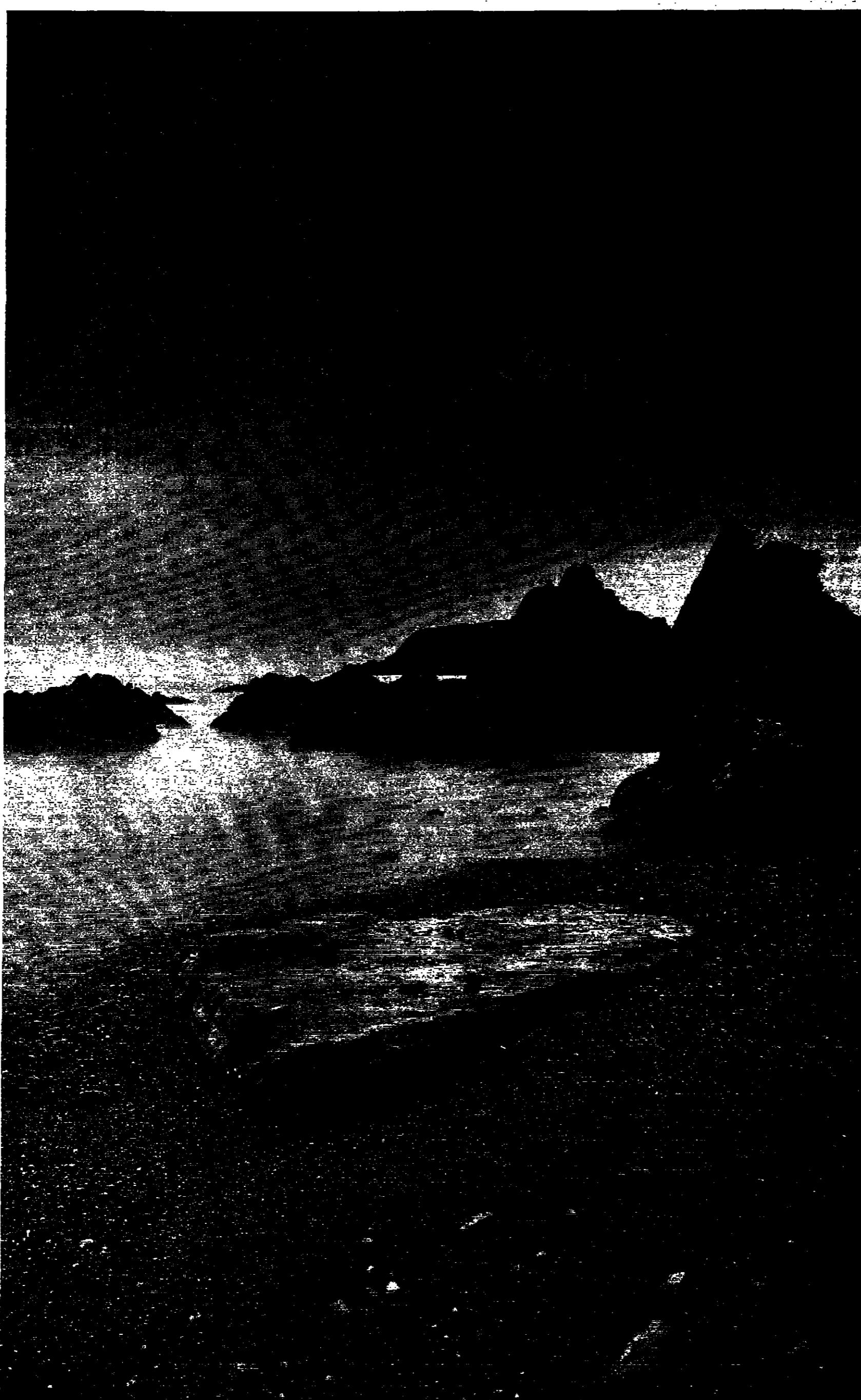
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Local election campaign

Birmingham, the city where the builder still rules

IN MODERN Birmingham, with its hideous jumble of glass and cement skyscrapers, ring roads, overpasses and underpasses, surrounded by crumpling and unrepairable blocks of flats, it is hard to recall that this city was the model of local government for Britain, and the empire and the world.

The radical politician Joseph Chamberlain transformed Birmingham in the nineteenth century with his schemes for municipal gas and water, slum clearance, street lighting, sanitation and secular schools.

Birmingham's local government was as economic as it was beneficial. Municipal gas, for instance, made a profit of £34,000 in the first year; it contributed to rate relief; and the price of gas was lowered twice in the first three years.

At the time of incorporation as a city in 1889, Birmingham was the model for the newly created Calcutta Corporation, and its largely Bengali elector, and The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Alexander MacKenzie, gave warning in 1896 that Birmingham had certain advantages.

"In Birmingham," he said, "the population is homogeneous.

The council there is composed entirely of shrewd, capable men of business, manufacturers, merchants, tradesmen, and the like, whose one object is to treat every question before them not as an opportunity for speech-making, but as a matter to be settled as promptly as may be in the most practical way."

In those days, only property-holders paid rates, and only taxpayers had a vote in local government. That system continued until after the Second World War, when all adults were given the vote. The new poll tax means that, for the first

time, all those who can vote will have to pay the local tax.

The empire and imperial preference kept Birmingham prosperous until after the Second World War, when India and then the rest of the Commonwealth became independent.

The proud trademark "Made in Birmingham" lost its appeal as strikes and restrictive practices crippled the car industry and other trades.

In the late 1950s and early

1960s, the energy that had once gone into manufacture went into property speculation and building. The council was taken over by the construction industry: engineers, architects, town planners and property developers, often working with politicians and public relations consultants, as they were grandly called.

The rulers of Birmingham did their best in the 1960s, pulling down thousands of old but sturdy terraced houses and forcing the occupants into poorly built, lonely and vandalized high-rise blocks. Fortunes were built out of the Bull Ring complex and other grandiose city centre developments; and from the ring roads and the Midland Link motorway system, including Spaghetti Junction.

Most of this building done in the 1960s is now cracked and crumbling. Several high-rise flats have already been pulled down.

The council has started to blow up blocks of flats. The Bull Ring complex is to be demolished and another built. The council has changed some underpasses into overpasses, and intends to "break the concrete collar" of the ring road encircling the city centre.

During the past five years, part of Chamberlain's Birmingham was flattened to make way for what is described as "the First UK Purpose Built Convention Centre 10 Rival Anything in the World" an immense fully worthy of Ceausescu's Bucharest or Manila's Manila.

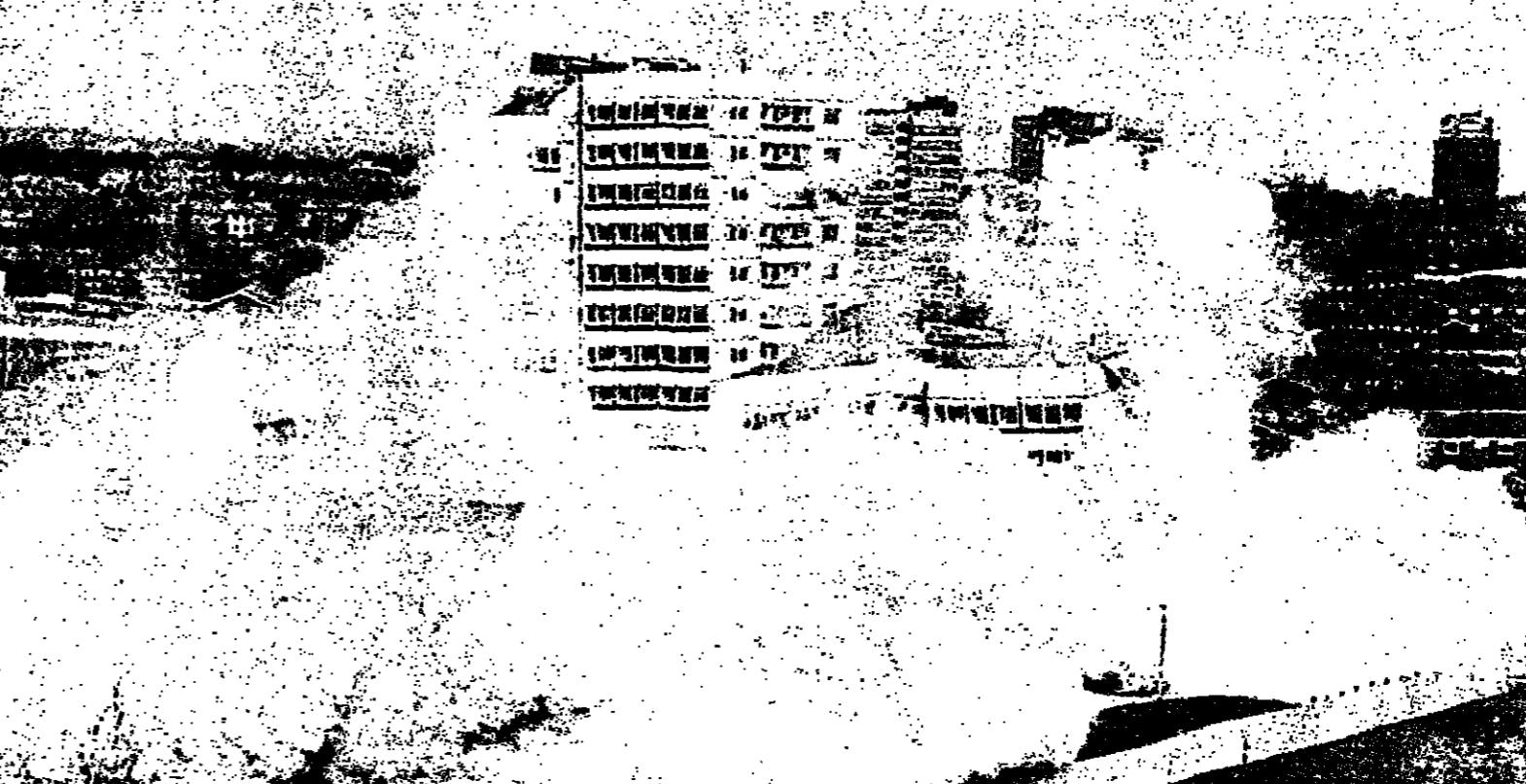
These "post-war" "developments" took place in a city whose industry and population were actually in decline. Tens of thousands of the indigenous population have left, to be replaced by immigrants from that former empire.

Many thousand Bengalis now live in Birmingham, with Punjabis, Sikhs, Gujaratis and Kashmiris. Many are divided by political and religious feuds inherited from their homelands.

The West Indians, who were the first Commonwealth immigrants in the city, are besieged by unemployment, partly because they cannot break the Irish monopoly on building sites. At last year's centenary of the city's incorporation, the Church of England tried to ingratiate itself with black people in Birmingham by singing a rally for Dr Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, at Aston Villa football ground.

Local black churches boycotted the rally because they dislike Dr Tutu's involvement in politics. The event lost £50,000 and led to the resignation of the bishop who had conceived it.

The years in opposition have been particularly frustrating for the Conservatives because they have coincided with the emergence of the city



A Selby block of flats being blown up last year because of the high cost of repairs and because the tenants did not like living in them

Tories will have to wait

By Craig Seton

BIRMINGHAM, Britain's second largest city, is one of the prime electoral prizes on offer in the May local elections, but any Conservative Party ambitions of achieving a majority on the city council for the first time since 1984 will probably have to wait.

During the past six of almost eleven years of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's premiership, the Labour Party has been in control in Birmingham. It holds 67 of the 117 council seats. The Conservatives have 43, the Social and Liberal Democrats 6 and there is 1 independent.

Labour is defending 26 of the 39 seats, a third of the total, being contested next month. The Green Party is fielding candidates in each one.

The Labour group, under the leadership of Sir Richard Knowles, a veteran party organizer with a bluff, no-nonsense approach, has endured considerable opposition from a left-wing caucus within its own ranks for its close working relationships with the private sector in regeneration schemes and for its commitment to the £150 million flagship development of the International Convention Centre, which opens next year.

The left-wing councillors said their leaders were abandoning socialism in the race to achieve power.

All parties agree that the poll tax will dictate the outcome of next month's poll. The Conservatives believe that the Labour group is much more vulnerable than it suspects over the £400 charge it has set.

Family planning clinics 'being cut'

HEALTH authorities have planned to cut up to half their family planning services because of financial difficulties, the Labour Party said yesterday. (Gill Sherman writes)

Ms Harriet Harman, Opposition health spokesman, has written to Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, calling for an urgent review.

She has also sent Mr Clarke a dossier of planned closures which show that many of the cuts will affect rural clinics and specialist youth centres aimed at helping to avoid unwanted teenage pregnancies. "Family planning is a vital health care service for women", she said.

Mr Bryan Gould, shadow environment secretary, said that the Government had written off the environment vote as their fortunes had declined over the past few months.

Peers back down on loans

A Lords amendment allowing the Lords and the Commons to amend existing regulations on the amount of top-up loans available for students was finally rejected yesterday.

Peers voted not to insist on the amendment, already rejected by the Commons, by 119 votes to 68 — Government majority, 51.

Lord Beith, Leader of the House, said that the amendment was a most unusual one. It would certainly complicate the Education (Student-Loans) Bill. There would have to be machinery to resolve disagreement between Lords and Commons.

Parliamentary cash machines

Cash dispensing machines may be introduced into the House of Commons, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said at question time yesterday. The proposal was being considered by a committee.

He told MPs that wider banking facilities were being considered in phase two of the new Parliament building, but he wanted to press ahead with a cash dispensing service.

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C) said it was not only banking facilities, but also simple groceries that were needed.

Sir Geoffrey agreed that there was a case for extending facilities.

Defence job

Mr Moray Stewart, aged 51, a present deputy secretary at the Ministry of Defence, is to be Second Permanent Secretary in succession to Mr Kenneth Macdonald, who retires in September.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Employment, Prime Minister, Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, Committee, second day (amendments on time limits for abortions).

Lords (2.30): National Health Service and Community Care Bill, Committee, second day.

MPs 'harder to hear'

By John Lewis, Parliamentary Staff

MR Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, has ordered an inquiry into the microphone system in the Commons after complaints that televising the House has made it more difficult to hear ministers and MPs.

Experts say privately that the difficulty of hearing some remarks has little to do with the audio system, which has not changed, and a great deal to do with the way that ministers, the Home Minister in particular, are chosen to face the cameras and in doing so have turned away from the microphones.

MPs on the select committee televising the Commons debate, however, that the system is now out of date and, in any case, would have had to be changed.

Sir Geoffrey announced in a

House calls for driver's release

IRAQI 'GUNS'

ing the case. The load could have been taken over by Customs and Excise in Greece, but Mr Ashley, seemingly, was being made a scapegoat. Why had he been told that an arrest, if it took place, would be a mere technicality?

"This is an innocent trucker" with a young family, doing a normal commercial job. If European Community members mean anything by "internal market" then this man should be returned to the United Kingdom immediately."

Mr Waldegrave, Minister of State, Foreign Office, gave details of help given to Mr Ashton by the British vice-consul in Patras, who had visited him and provided him with extra food and bedding.

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton South, C) said that that left a few questions unanswered: Why was his constituent's bail application refused? All the evidence given by United Kingdom representatives, particularly by diplomatic representatives and a representative of Customs and Excise emphasized Mr Ashley's innocence.

Why, having secured his load in Greece, and returned to Britain over Easter, had he seemingly been given clearance by Customs and Excise to go back with the future surrounding.

Letters, page 17

Tunnel rail link 'will not get public cash'

TRANSPORT

being entirely privately organized?

Mr Parkinson said that if the tunnel were in the public sector, that would be a recipe for gigantic costs overrun. It would not be a question of costs doubling if it were a public project, but probably tripling or quadrupling.

Mr Gerald Bowden (Dulwich, C) said that the rail link should be designed to serve the whole of the United Kingdom and not simply to provide development of the King's Cross site.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said that the annual report of Euston had shown that costs had almost doubled in three or four years. Did that not demonstrate inadequate management and inadequate finances as a result of the project's

IF THE Channel tunnel project were being financed by the public sector, costs would probably have already trebled or even quadrupled. Mr Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, said during Commons question time yesterday.

Pressed to state that the Government would not provide finance for the high-speed rail link between Folkestone and London, Mr Parkinson said: "It would be illegal for the Government to provide money for the Channel tunnel rail link. It is expressly forbidden by section 42 of the Channel Tunnel Act."

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said that the annual report of Euston had shown that costs had almost doubled in three or four years. Did that not demonstrate inadequate management and inadequate finances as a result of the project's

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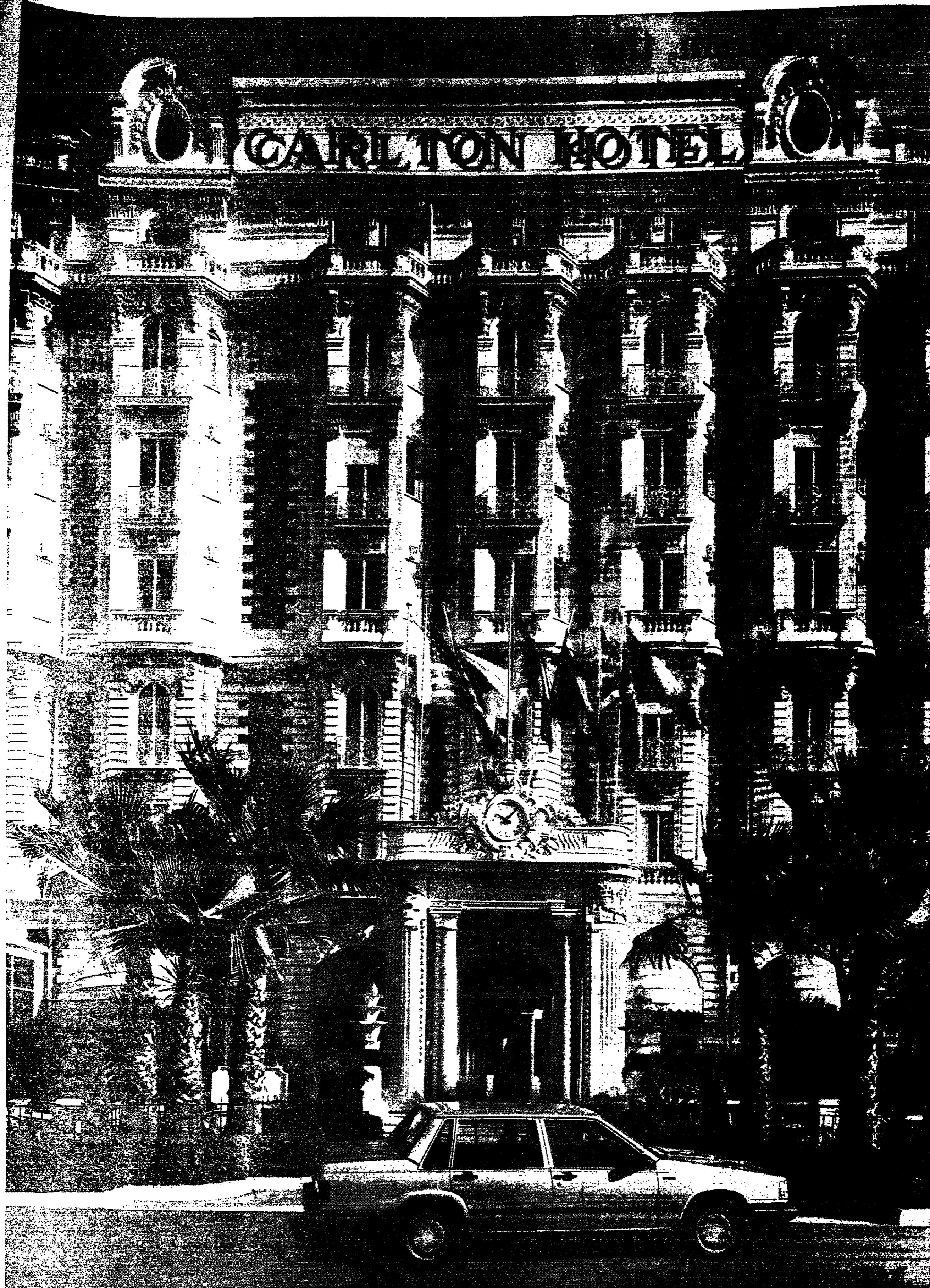
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Islamic backlash pushes Turkey down path of violence

By Christopher Walker
Middle East Correspondent

WHEN Mrs Thatcher arrives in Turkey today she will be visiting a country with one of the worst human rights records in Europe, where mounting political violence has prompted fears of a slide back into the chaos that caused the Army to seize power in 1980.

A poll last week among 2,439 Turks found that the rapid spread of Islamic fundamentalism closely followed by terrorism were the two things people feared most in their daily lives. Pollution came a poor third, despite the notorious old-style smogs that afflict the cities.

Draconian new restrictions on the press and sweeping powers for the security forces fighting the Kurdish rebellion in the south-east have increased criticism that the country is deliberately turning its back on the type of democratic reforms taking place elsewhere in Europe. Over the weekend,

six rebel Kurds and one Turkish soldier were killed in a long gun battle near Sırmak town, about 25 miles north of the Iraqi border. The fighting was the latest example in the recent escalation in the rebellion led by the separatist Kurdish Workers' Party.

Although Turkey is Britain's ally in Nato and a fellow member of the Council of Europe, with aspirations to resume its failed application to join the European Community in 1993, the recent conduct of the Government shows little willingness to respond to European Community norms.

As Mr Mustafa Gürsel, a leading columnist, wrote after the recent censorship decree: "This situation is not acceptable. The right of the people to be informed about what is going on is being obstructed. If we are going to be part of the democratic 'Western club', we have to play the game according to the rules, otherwise we cannot claim membership or claim that we are fit for it."

In addition to daily violence in the Kurdish separatist struggle, there have been five political assassinations in the past two months, most carried out by Muslim extremists whose influence is growing.

Turkey, a Muslim country of 55 million people with a secular constitution, is particularly sensitive to Muslim fundamentalism, as it borders Iran. There are growing accusations that the ruling Motherland Party has been "soft" on fundamentalists in an effort to improve its flagging popularity.

In recent polls this has dropped as low as 7 per cent compared with the 36 per cent support it achieved when re-elected in 1987. But the ineffective Prime Minister, Mr Yıldırım Akbulut, the butt of countless jokes centring on his allegedly feeble intelligence, has refused calls for a new election.

Among those who were victims of the new spate of political murders – reminiscent of those in the late 1970s when more than 5,000 people were killed

in political violence – were Professor Muammer Aksoy, a jurist, and Mr Cetin Emec, a respected journalist on the daily *Hürriyet*.

Both were outspoken supporters of secularism and their killings were claimed by a previously unknown group, "Islamic Revenge". Their murders came after revelations that investigations were under way into Islamic infiltration of the Turkish Air Force and a controversial campaign to turn Istanbul's famous cathedral, St Sophia, back into a mosque.

St Sophia, for 1,000 years the world's largest man-made enclosed space, was turned into a mosque after the fall of Constantinople in 1453 and then converted to a museum in the 1930s by Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, who introduced far-reaching secular reforms.

The renewed campaign to reopen it to Muslim prayer is seen as symbolic of the changes now taking place. It follows the lifting of the ban on women students

wearing Islamic-style headscarves on campus and the spread of Islamic banks and foundations, some backed by Saudi Arabian finance.

Political observers believe the Islamic backlash has been encouraged by the failure of the EC membership application. The last budget in December increased the funding of the Religious Affairs Department by more than 200 per cent, making it larger in cash terms than the allowance for the Foreign Ministry.

A young army officer who sent a public telegram accusing President Ozal of fostering Islamic fundamentalism was held for a month in a psychiatric ward. As well as the violence by Islamic extremists and the mass demonstrations by their backers who regularly block traffic in Istanbul, there have been attacks on political targets by left-wing militants who are now linking up with the Kurdish Workers' Party.

The outlawed grouping known as the Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) claimed responsibility for recent bomb attacks in Ankara and Istanbul. It said the explosions were a protest at Turkey's treatment of its 10 million Kurds.

The Army, the key defender of Turkey's secular institutions, has emphasized that it regards early elections and the establishment of a strong popular government as the best means of defending the country's fragile democracy.

But this is being resisted by Mr Ozal, an interventionist President who is widely regarded as having appointed Mr Akbulut as a puppet to allow himself to continue to wield power.

Mr Ozal is the former Prime Minister and leader of the Motherland Party. He is seen as the architect of the clampdown on the press, claimed as worse than anything introduced in wartime, and unwilling to do anything to bring an election forward from the appointed date of late 1992.

Former policeman tells of 'hit squad' killing in Durban

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

A FORMER South African policeman gave evidence in London yesterday that he was a member of a "hit squad" which killed a human rights lawyer.

Mr David Tshikalange was giving evidence on the opening day of hearings in London by Mr Justice Louis Harms, a South African judge heading a commission of inquiry into allegations that Pretoria operated a policy of selective assassinations in the mid-1980s.

The London hearings were called to enable Mr Tshikalange and Mr Dirk Coetzee, his white former superior officer, to give evidence. Both left South Africa after newspaper articles in which Mr Coetzee was reported as saying that he was involved in a death squad.

The judicial commission is widely seen as a test of South Africa's ability to become a more open society. The outside world will gain an impression, from the access Mr Harms is given by Pretoria to high-level information, of the extent to which President de Klerk's Government has made a clean break with previous policies.

Much depends on whether the authorities are willing to confirm the evidence Mr Harms is hearing in the private cinema in the basement of the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square, London.

The commission is expected to try to establish whether the

death squads were run at the initiative of individuals or groups within the police force or military, or whether they were set up by the South African Government. Yes-

terday's evidence threw no light on this.

The commission will need to establish the status of a unit known as the Civil Co-operation Bureau, which is thought to have run or co-ordinated the death squads. Its existence was unknown until last year, and General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, has said he was unaware of it. He had agreed to give evidence to the commission. However, there have been allegations that responsibility may ultimately lie at Cabinet level.

Mr Tshikalange said he was a junior member of a four-man group which killed Griffiths Mxenge, the black human rights lawyer, in Durban in 1981, and said he himself struck one blow with a knife.

The commission had heard previous evidence in South Africa that the men were told to make the murder look like a robbery. Mxenge was suspected of being a member of the ANC, then a banned organization.

Before driving to the assassination, the squad was shown a photograph put to him by Mr Denis Kuny, Senior Counsel. Offered the alternative of giving evidence in Afrikaans rather than English, he said both languages were difficult for him.

Afterwards the squad changed their bloodstained clothes and the number plate



On the attack: President Collor de Mello of Brazil hitches a ride in an Air Force F5 fighter from Brasilia to Rio. He has made it his mission to tackle the country's economic crisis, and his latest move is a freeze of repayments on Brazil's \$114.8 billion debts until new terms are agreed

Sudan Army crushes coup attempt by rebel soldiers

From Marti Colley, Nairobi

SUDAN'S military Government was reported to have crushed an attempted coup yesterday after rebel soldiers tried to seize control of key installations in and around Khartoum, the capital.

Speaking on the radio at lunchtime, the President, Lieutenant-General Omar al-Bashir, said: "All those who are involved in the coup attempt have been arrested; those who are in active service and those who are retired."

The abortive coup, allegedly

planned by retired army officers, began at midnight when a group of rebel soldiers stormed Khartoum airport and the offices of Radio Omdurman.

"They tried to take over the airport and the radio in a rather pathetic way, and were very unsuccessful," an army spokesman said. Another group attempted to shoot its way into the army headquarters but was overpowered by loyal troops.

The Government closed the airport, sealed bridges in and out of the capital, and cut communications with the outside world for a short while during the early hours of Monday. By mid-morning however, the army command said the situation had returned to normal.

But the Army is reported to be on full alert, with tanks stationed around bridges, and reinforcements surrounding army headquarters, the radio and television stations and other strategic buildings.

This is Sudan's second coup

attempt in a month. At the end of March officers and civilians were arrested for allegedly planning a coup. The President said later that only 20 people were involved and that investigations were under way. It is not yet known how many people were arrested yesterday or exactly who was involved. In his broadcast, the President blamed the "alliance" in coalition with the outlaws".

The "alliance" could be a reference to the signatories of the National Democratic Alliance Charter, drawn up last October between political parties, trade unions and professional associations banned when General al-Bashir seized power last June.

In March an amended version of the charter was also signed by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting for the past seven years to end domination of the Christian and animist south by the Muslim north.

Warning signs for Babangida

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

FEW Nigerians know the intricacies of plotting against the country's rulers better than General Ibrahim Babangida, who was able to put down Sunday's plot by a group of junior officers in the Nigerian capital, Lagos.

Their success could have led to civil war. Failure now to heed the warnings could still lead to strife.

The general was the power behind the military ousting of Nigeria's last civilian government under President Shagari in 1983, following its widespread fraud and corruption practices.

At that time he preferred to remain behind the scenes, making General Muhammadu Buhari President of Nigeria's fifth military government since independence in 1960.

He changed his mind after two years of General Buhari's hardline excesses, ousted him, and took over himself.

For the past four years, serious religious tension between Muslims and Christians has been growing dangerously, exacerbated by presidential decisions to take Nigeria into the Organization of Islamic Conference in 1986, concessions, albeit lukewarm, to Sharia (Muslim law) in the new constitution, religious rioting and the resignation of the last Christian member of Nigeria's ruling military council.

The President has survived this coup attempt, but can only regain a little of his lost popularity and avoid an upheaval which would affect the whole continent by getting in touch again with Nigeria's 120 million people.

New York hunts for the cab killer

From Charles Bremer, New York

Bronx since late March. Each killing took place in the small hours, and a small-calibre pistol was used to shoot the driver once in the head.

Since radio-cab drivers carry very little money, police are searching for other motives. They are also examining the possibility that a woman, or some other unlikely murderer, was responsible because radio-cab companies have been refusing any passenger late at night who looks remotely suspicious.

About three murders a year are now reported inside churches. "It's like living in the middle of an insane asylum with no bodyguards," said the Rev James Washington, a professor of church history at Union Seminary in Manhattan.

"There is a crop of amoral, if not simply nihilistic, folk who have been bred within the ghetto, and to try to introduce morality in that general context of amorality is almost like committing suicide."

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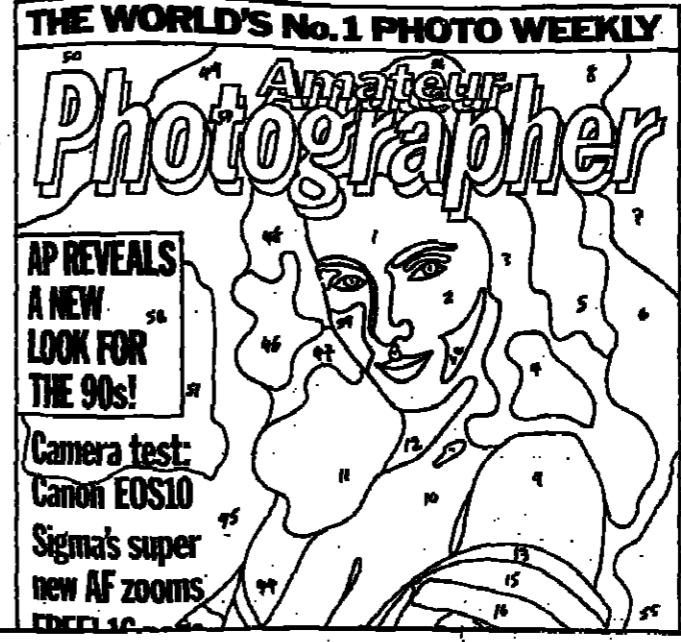


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Obituary, page 18

مكتبة الأصل

Damascus role in hostage drama puts onus on UK

From Christopher Walker, Damascus

PRESSURE is increasing on Britain to restore diplomatic ties with Syria as a result of the key role being played by Damascus in the attempts to free Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Relations were broken off in October 1986, after Nezar Hindawi's foiled plot to blow up an Israeli jet flying from Heathrow.

"There is no doubt that the British hostages are now in a less favourable position than the seven remaining Americans because of Britain's lack of diplomatic clout in Damascus," a European envoy with experience of hostage negotiations said. "This is compounded because Syria is now co-operating closely with Iran on the hostage issue."

Britain's refusal to break off relations with Iraq over the hanging of Farzad Bazoft, the London-based journalist, and subsequent scandals over the smuggling of nuclear trigger devices and the Iraqi "super-gum" have increased behind-the-scenes criticism by other Western governments of Britain's stand on Syria.

"The stand of the British Foreign Office is beginning to look less and less defensible or realistic," another European diplomat said.

When Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, an-

nounced on March 29 that Britain would not cut ties with Baghdad, he told the Commons that he did not want to be in a position "where we do not actually have an embassy in the Middle East between the Khyber Pass and the Mediterranean".

Britain has no diplomatic links with Iran or Libya.

Shortly before the release at the weekend of Professor Robert Polhill, British sources said Syria's continuing refusal to resume links with Syria was related to the Hindawi affair and Damascus's willingness to harbour "terrorist groups" in Syria and in Syrian territory in Lebanon.

After Hindawi's attempt to blow up the El Al jet flying from Heathrow, Mr Roger Tomkys, the last British Ambassador in Damascus, described the closure of London's links with Syria as a "disadvantage, not a disaster".

The United States also withdrew its ambassador, but there was an embarrassing failure to arrange a concerted European Community stand. Mr Ronald Reagan, then US President, later authorized the return of the American envoy after Syria decided to expel the extremist Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal, now based in Libya.

Western diplomats in Dam-

ascus have made little secret of their criticism of the British stand, which many now believe is doing more harm to British than to Syrian interests. "There is no doubt that Syria is playing a more positive role than Iraq in Arab affairs these days. I think a government's policy should reflect that," one said. Western airline officials have estimated at up to £50 million a year the cost to British Airways of the related closure of Syrian airspace.

The British sources named three "terrorist groups" whose continuing protection by Syria is cited as one reason for not resuming ties. They are the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, led by Ahmed Jibril, the former Syrian Army officer suspected of planning the 1988 explosion of the Pan Am jumbo over Lockerbie; the Japanese Red Army; and the Kurdish Workers' Party, a Marxist organization fighting the Turkish Government for a separate Kurdish state.

Syrian ministers insist that any initiative to restore relations must come from London. "It was London that made the break, and it is London which must be the side to repair it again," a Syrian official said.

While Mr Edward Djerejian,

the American Ambassador in Damascus, is able to command easy access to senior Syrian figures and plan complex hostage release operations, Britain has only two junior diplomats and a secretary in the Syrian capital. They work out of an interest section supervised by the Australian Embassy.

The two, Mr John Davis and Mr Andrew Tesoriere, are regarded as competent officials, but neither has the seniority or the contacts to play a central role in hostage negotiations.

A planned visit to Tehran by President Assad is expected to galvanize further the joint Syrian-Iranian initiative to secure the release of the 16 Westerners, four of them British, still held in Lebanon. One, Mr Brian Keenan, also holds an Irish passport, but Ireland has no ambassador in Damascus.

Diplomatic sources who have previously argued in favour of an early resumption of Anglo-Syrian ties yesterday claimed that the last-minute complexities of the Polhill release highlighted the important role now played by embassies in the Syrian capital, probably the focus of future releases.

Leading article, page 17



Back in play: Professor Polhill after arriving at a military hospital in Wiesbaden

'Freedom is like wanting a T-bone steak'

Damascus

EXCERPTS from a Syrian state television interview with Professor Robert Polhill on Sunday night:

Question: How was your first day in captivity?
Answer: I remember my first day in captivity more than the rest of my days in captivity... It was boring...

...We were not allowed to speak loudly. We had nothing to read, but we were deprived materials that gave any news about us.

As to our specific conditions, I can tell you it could have been a lot worse. We were not maltreated; thanks to those who guarded us, who tried to give us things within the limits of the restrictions on them. We played cards...

We were very much in the dark about our status. We didn't know where we stood. That was the worst. We didn't know whether we were going to be released and when or whether we were ever going to be released.

Q: What does freedom mean to you?

A: Freedom is something that, believe it or not, neither are nor my two associates spent a lot of time thinking about. It's a bit like you wish you had a T-bone steak in front of you.

Knowing you were not going to get it right away makes you more hungry, makes you want that steak more. So we didn't spend time thinking or talking about when we'd be freed.

Our most difficult assignment was to find things to think about. To keep our minds active so we didn't begin to vegetate... My belief is that part of the symptom of a mind beginning to stray and go bad to the point of danger is the loss of anger. I was angry at what was done to us, at being taken away from my wife and family, my friends and students. And so I strived to continue to be angry, knowing at all times that if I began to lose that anger I would just sort of become a vegetable, and I didn't want that to happen.

Q: What do you want to say to the world?

A: One thing I probably should say is that I was a little bit surprised to find out that the specific demands these men (the kidnappers) are making and want the world to know seems to be precisely the same they made about two weeks after our kidnapping, when Alain Stora made the videotape — releasing the 400 prisoners held in Israeli jails. We seem right back at ground zero... I'd have thought things would have changed over the three years, that some of those prisoners got released, I don't know. (AP)

Plea by captive's family

By Robert Rodwell

RELATIVES of Brian Keenan, the Belfast teacher who is today spending his 1,473rd day in captivity in Beirut, are seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, to present a petition calling for Mr Keenan's release.

The petition carries more than 60,000 signatures. It is hoped that the authorities in Dublin will pass it on to the Iranian Government. Campaigners for Mr Keenan's release hoped to present it to Mr Haughey during his visit to Belfast 13 days ago, but he was unable to meet them then.

Although a Belfast Protestant, Mr Keenan exercised his right to an Irish passport before going to work at the American University in Beirut in the mistaken belief that it would be safer to be taken for an Irishman there than a Briton.

Consequently Dublin has been leading diplomatic efforts to achieve his release.

Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, was meeting Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, in New York yesterday to discuss Mr Keenan's case.

Israel holds key to more releases

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

A DECISION by Israel to set free some or all of the 300 Shia Muslim prisoners it holds could be the key to the release of further Western hostages in Lebanon. But the Israelis show themselves in no mood to take such a step.

Yesterday Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, also called for the release of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, the leading Shia cleric who was kidnapped by Israeli commandos from his home in southern Lebanon last July.

Both Iranian and Lebanese kidnap groups have repeatedly demanded the release of Shias held by Israel, and above all of Sheikh Obeid, described by Israel as the one of his capture as a "big fish".

Israeli officials said at the time that behind-the-scenes negotiations for hostage releases, with Sheikh Obeid used as a bargaining counter, would take "months".

Yesterday Israeli officials were silent about their plans regarding Sheikh Obeid, said to be held under strict security at a comfortable three-roomed villa in northern Israel.

But Western diplomats said Israel's main aim was to use its Arab prisoners as leverage to gain freedom for Israeli servicemen captured during

clashes in Lebanon in the 1980s and described as "missing in action". One diplomat said: "Israel is clearly concerned about Western hostages, but its strict priority is getting back its own people."

Two Israeli soldiers, Rahamin Alsheich and British-born Joseph Fink, were captured by a Hezbollah squad in southern Lebanon in February 1986. A third Israeli, Ron Arad, an Air Force navigator, was shot down over Lebanon soon afterwards.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Fink and Alsheich died at the time of their capture four years ago or shortly afterwards. In 1986 a Beirut magazine showed two men lying in hospital beds. But Lebanese sources subsequently said the two soldiers were dead at the time and the photograph was a fake.

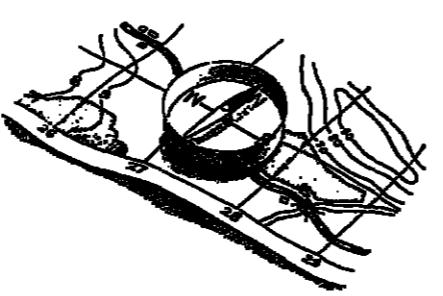
Sheikh Obeid reportedly told his Israeli interrogators the same story. Senior Israeli army officers say they regard the servicemen as being alive "until proven otherwise".

Most of Israel's Arab prisoners, captured during clashes in or near Israel's self-imposed security zone in southern Lebanon, are held at Khiam, a high-security prison inside the security zone. "Perhaps Iran wrongly imagines that America's relationship with Israel is similar to Iran's with the Hezbollah," one expert on Lebanese affairs said.

"But Washington cannot easily put pressure on Israel to free its prisoners as part of a deal. Israel has to show the Israeli people that it got something in return."

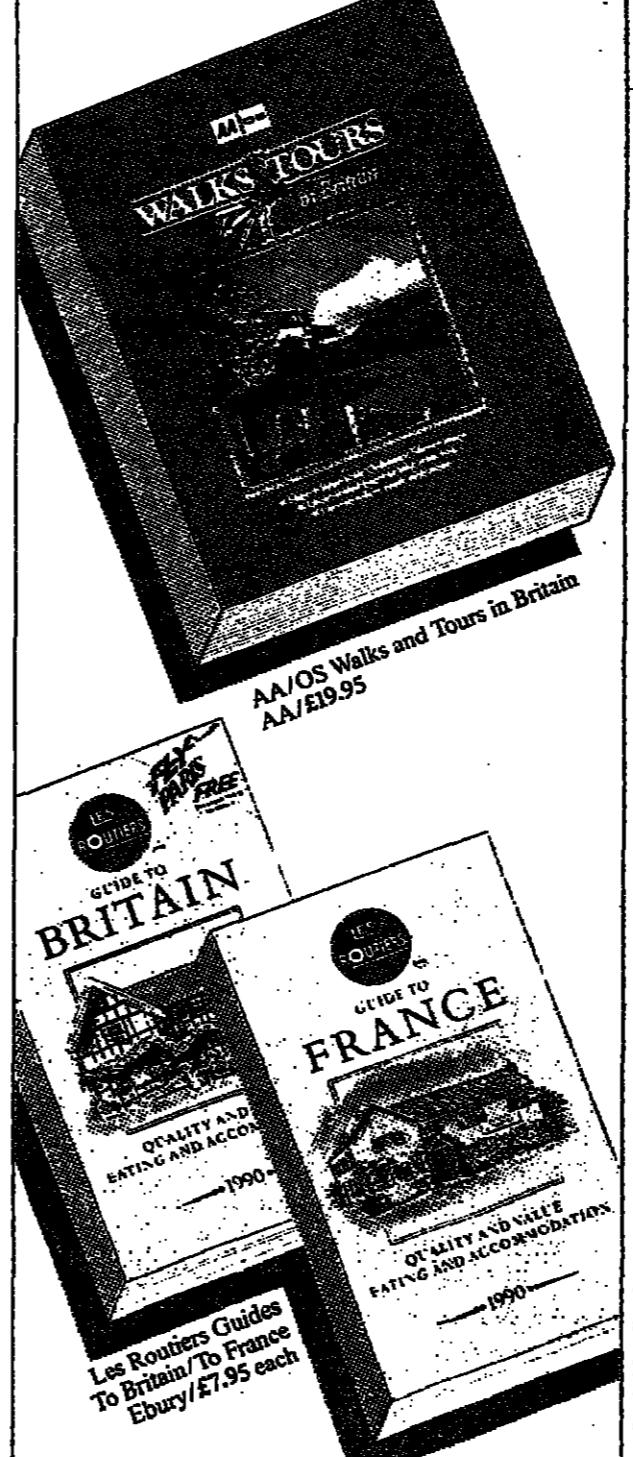
Mr Uri Lubrani, Israel's commander of activities in southern Lebanon, said Iran's leaders appeared to have realized that "kidnapping brings them no credit". Since 1983, Israel has freed more than 5,600 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in exchange for captured soldiers.

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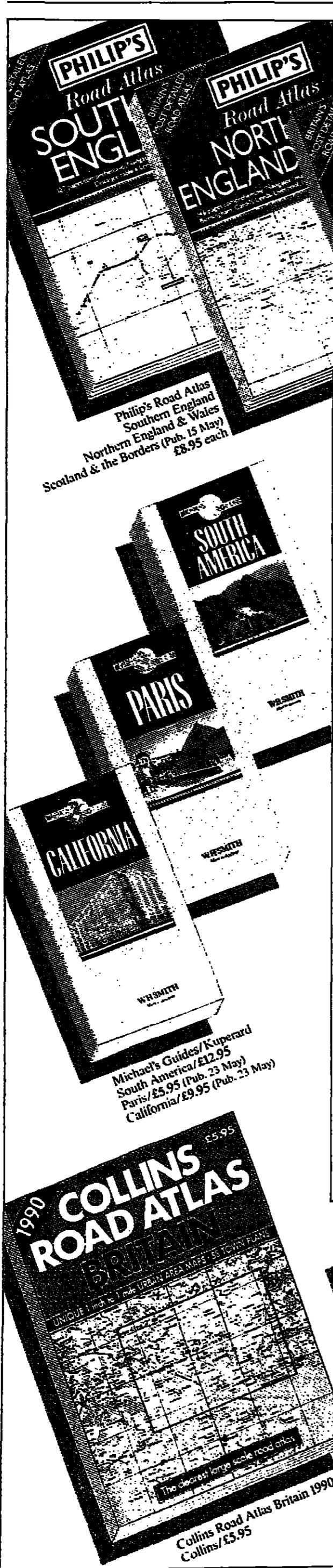


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Sheikh Obeid: Abducted from his home last July



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PLO swing to hardliners as Peres hopes are blighted

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

AFTER nearly three weeks of trying to form a left-of-centre government, disappointed leaders of the Israeli Labour Party yesterday conceded that they had all but failed, and that the Middle East peace plan formulated by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, was a "dead letter".

Jubilant supporters of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the caretaker Prime Minister and leader of the conservative Likud Party, said he was in a position not only to block a Labour government but also to form a right-of-centre coalition with the support of Israel's powerful Orthodox religious parties.

Labour sources said Mr Yitzhak Peres, the Labour leader, could give up his attempt to form a government before Thursday, when the deadline laid down by President Herzog expires. Apparently despairing of dialogue with Israel, Palestinian extremists yesterday began to gain the upper hand over moderates in the Palestinian

Pepsi-Cola breaches the Indian trade wall

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

PEPSI-COLA, after five years of trying, has finally broken through India's wall of protectionism and is about to set up business in terrorist-ridden Punjab, to an accompanying chorus of protests from politicians, religious leaders and industrialists.

"Since independence 43 years ago, India has been reluctant to open its markets to the world. Coca-Cola left India 12 years ago in a bitter dispute about shareholding structures and import permits. Pepsi's entry represents a remarkable breakthrough after a dogged campaign that almost founders when the new Indian Government took power in December. Mr V. P. Singh, the Prime Minister, decided to give the go-ahead, but even at the last minute, the Government dithered. The name "Pepsi", it was felt, was too famous and too evocative of Western ways. The Cabinet decided it must carry the Hindi word *leha* (wave) in front, but everybody will call it Pepsi anyway."

The breakthrough sends a message of hope to all international corporations that covet a toe-hold in India's rapidly growing market of more than 800 million people.

Pepsi Foods Ltd, the Indian subsidiary of the multinational, will invest nearly £18 million in a soft-drinks and food-processing venture in the Punjab which will include potato crisps and tomato paste.

The Punjab, India's bread-basket, is aog at the economic might of the incoming giant. Nearly a third of all tomatoes produced in the state, for example, will be processed by Pepsi, and it will buy vast quantities of fruit and vegetables to produce concentrate for export.

Protest flag becomes focus of Kashmir border strife

From Zahid Hussain Chikoti

AT THE Chikoti border post in Kashmir, a simple tricolour flag fluttering from a branch in no man's land has become the focus of hostility between Indian and Pakistani troops.

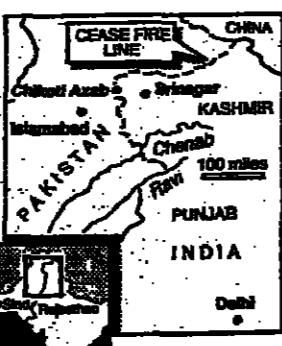
Ever since the flag — that of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front — was hoisted by protesters on February 12, at the cost of two of their lives, the Indian troops have tried to remove it. Pakistani troops regard it as a point of honour to thwart their attempts.

Entrenched in their bunkers for the past three months, the Indian and Pakistani troops facing each other at Chikoti exchange fire on the slightest provocation.

Sometimes the firing continues for days, resulting in regular casualties, mostly civilians living on both sides of the control line.

A Pakistani soldier's jaw was blown off by gunfire on Sunday night, and sporadic exchanges of fire continued the next morning as a group of journalists was taken to the Pakistani forward position in the picturesque mountainous area. Chikoti, a border post about 100 miles from Srinagar, is one of the hot spots as tension between India and Pakistan escalates.

There are also signs of



increasing tension in the other areas of the control line, at Lata, Hajipura and Pandi.

Although military officials

play down the border situation, there are reports of increasing casualties on both sides.

The long line of control in Kashmir, which stretches to Pakistan's Eastern Punjab province, was agreed after the 1971 war between India and Pakistan. Both are reported to have built new bunkers in violation of the agreement.

Pakistani officials admit they have mobilized more than 100,000 men in Kashmir, among them the Mujahid reserve force, which is mobilized only in the likelihood of war.

They claim India has deployed more than 200,000 troops in Kashmir, including more than 20,000 border security troops. They say most



Border birthday: Members of the 2nd Battalion King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, stationed near the Hong Kong-Chinese frontier, being reviewed yesterday by Sir David Wilson, the Governor of the colony, on the occasion of the battalion's 175th anniversary

Six die in flare-up of Nepal violence

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

FOUR people were shot dead by police after angry demonstrators beat to death two policemen in the Nepalese capital yesterday.

The two policemen, cornered on an avenue, were among six people beaten senseless by a Kathmandu crowd.

Nepal's state radio said Kathmandu's police chief imposed a curfew on the capital and threatened to have violators shot.

The violence erupted as political leaders accused supporters of the King of trying to destabilize the new multi-party Government.

Two people were killed and many others were carried away with bullet wounds after police opened fire to disperse a mob outside the office of the district superintendent of police in Kathmandu.

The 5,000-strong crowd wanted police to hand over three *mandalais* — policemen belonging to a special body of strong-arm loyalists of the old partyless *panchayat* government — who were in custody after local people had beaten them up. The two officers, accused of looting, had earlier been tied to a pushcart and wheeled through the city, jeered at by crowds.

Witnesses said at least two more people were killed by police in the maze of bazaars.

In another incident police with lathis charged a mob protesting against the "anti-social activities" of the *mandalais*. Elsewhere in the city, crowds surrounded the new Home Minister, Mr Yos Prasad Upadhyay, and the Chief of Police, Mr Hem Bahadur Singh, demanding tough action against the *mandalais*.

The new Government was formally sworn in last week after King Birendra bowed to demands to give up absolute power.

It has now formed a police task force from officers deemed to be loyal to the new administration, a move that amounts to a public acknowledgement that many senior elements of the police remain loyal to the old order.

Defiant Japan puts gorillas on show

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

THE decision by a Japanese zoo to pay a record price for two endangered lowland gorillas and then put them on show despite evidence that they were caught illegally has angered conservationists.

They say the incident reinforces Japan's reputation as an animal smuggler's paradise that cares little for protected species and which is now rich enough to indulge its expensive exotic whims.

Japan imports more of the world's most threatened flora and fauna than any other country. Last year customs officers at Tokyo's Narita airport forced travellers to hand over 8,678 rare animals,

fish, fur and various mounted animals whose trade is banned under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Cube Zoo, just east of Tokyo, braved the wrath of the World Wide Fund for Nature and even a harangue from Sigourney Weaver, star of *Gorillas in the Mist*, when, a week ago, it let its pair of internationally protected gorillas into a new 400 square yard cage for public viewing.

The price the zoo paid of \$6 million yen (£319,000) is a world record for a pair of young lowland gorillas. It has also given a fat profit to the importer, who declared a

necessary to the convention, it has no laws allowing for retroactive confiscation of imported animals.

Conservationists say that, anyway, it is now much too late to return the young animals to the wild.

Mr Toshimasa Murai, a spokesman for the city of Chiba, still claims that the gorillas were born in captivity.

The trade in endangered species has flowered because of laws which make it illegal to import protected species, but impossible to confiscate those which have slipped through, and which make it illegal to sell a protected animal but legal to own one.

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Denktas backed by Turkish Cypriots

Nicosia — Mr Rauf Denktas, promising a tough line in unity talks with Greek Cypriots, won a two-thirds majority in presidential elections in Turkish Cypriot north Cyprus on Sunday.

He said talks, which broke down in February, could resume only after general elections next month. (Reuters)

Train explodes

Craigsville, Pennsylvania — A train carrying sodium hydroxide and crude oil derailed and exploded, polluting a river and forcing at least 700 people out of their homes. (AP)

Emir gives way

Cairo — The Emir of Kuwait has restored a national assembly in response to demands for a return of parliament, dissolved in 1986. (Reuters)

Burma battle

Mae Sot, Thailand — Fighting is reported from the Thai border as Burmese troops advance on the Karen guerrilla headquarters. (Reuters)

Pilots defect

Sanaa — Five Ethiopian pilots defected to North Yemen by flying their helicopter across the Red Sea. (Reuters)

Finns object

Helsinki — Finnish conscientious objectors are on strike in protest at the length of time they spend in civilian service or jail. (Reuters)

Sting in the tail

Nicosia — An Iranian hunter was killed when a snake he tried to trap with his rifle bit coiled itself around the trigger, firing the weapon. (Reuters)

Li Peng runs into chorus of protests in Moscow

From Catherine Sampson, Moscow

SOVIET human rights activists staged a demonstration against Mr Li Peng on the first day of the Chinese Prime Minister's visit to Moscow yesterday. More than 100 people gathered in Smolenskaya Square, opposite the Soviet Foreign Ministry, as Mr Li's delegation were inside.

Organized jointly by the Moscow Students Club and Memorial, the human rights organization set up by Dr Andrei Sakharov for victims of Stalin, the crowd chanted "Down with Li Peng" in an echo of students in Peking's Tiananmen Square last year. Some wore white headbands in memory of the Chinese hunger-strikers, and some held Lithuanian flags or banners reading "Li Peng is a bloody executioner" and "Yesterday China, today Lithuania, tomorrow Moscow".

One speaker spoke of the "bloody wound inflicted by Li Peng on the people of China" and asked: "How can we be welcome in our country a

leader who has the blood of his people on his hands?" Others responded: "Throw Li Peng out of Moscow".

The loudest cheers were reserved for speakers who linked China's condition to issues in the Soviet Union. One 18-year-old physics student spoke of the "international struggle against communism" and said the student organization was planning a one-day hunger strike on Red Square on May 13, the anniversary of the beginning of the Tiananmen Square hunger strike.

There was little obvious security at the demonstration, although police with two-way radios lined the road between the demonstrators and the Foreign Ministry, an example of Stalinist architecture.

The crowd was well-behaved and dispersed of its own motion when a massive thunderstorm burst overhead.

Mr Li's visit, for talks with President Gorbachov on troubled Sino-Soviet relations, is the first visit to the Soviet



Mr Li Peng and his wife, Zhu Lin, waving as they board the aircraft at Peking airport taking them to Moscow

Union by a Chinese Prime Minister in 26 years but Mr Li arrived to a low-key welcome.

On his arrival, he said there were good prospects for relations between "two neighbouring socialist states", making a pointed reference to China's concern that the Soviet Union is departing from the socialist road.

Yesterday afternoon Mr Li

held talks with his Soviet counterpart and in the evening attended an official banquet but in a departure from

glasnost the Soviet authorities seemed to conspire with Chinese officials in a pact of near-silence about the content of the visit.

The sensitive issues Mr Li is expected to discuss with Mr Gorbachov were described by

Mr Li on his arrival as "matters concerning bilateral relations and major international problems of mutual concern".

Put less blandly, these matters include the collapse of the monopoly of communist power in Eastern Europe, the future of Soviet reforms, and what both countries saw as a frightening revival of fun-

damentalism along their common border. Both countries last year hailed President Gorbachov's Peking summit as a historic turning point in Sino-Soviet relations, but this year Moscow is saying little about the return visit.

Mr Li's arrival was private, and he was greeted by Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister.

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Total Credit Price	£10504.53	£11643.09	£12633.63
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The 1990 Sierras.



مكتبة الأصل

Lithuanians barter to keep industry alive

From Anatoli Lieven, Vilnius

ORDINARY Lithuanians appear not to have felt the full effects of Soviet cuts yet but factory managers, seeking to barter raw materials for finished products to keep their plants working, are tapping Lithuanian contacts in other parts of the Soviet Union.

Many car owners have left their vehicles at home and there are huge queues at all petrol stations during the few hours that stocks last, but food shops seem to be stocked as normal, and there are no complaints of shortages. Sugar is likely to be the first item to be affected, but it is already rationed in any case.

Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, a Deputy Prime Minister and chief of the commission for energy and fuel distribution, sent a telegram yesterday to the Ministry of Transport in Moscow asking for an explanation of the stoppage of some railway freight supplies to Lithuania.

Despite claims on Sunday by Mr Romualdas Ozolas, Lithuania's other Deputy Prime Minister, that all railway freight had been stopped, many factories seem to be receiving them more or less as normal.

As I sat in his office, Mr Ceslavas Krinickas, the deputy director of the Fortieth October Anniversary machine-tool plant, in New Vilnius, was on the telephone to a Lithuanian manager of a factory in Moldavia, attempting to get raw materials in return for a special shipment of machine tools.

Sitting under a bust of Lenin, Mr Krinickas said: "Nobody sells anything for roubles — we will have to give them something else: if not our products, then some of our motor transport."

He said the plant management had asked the Machine Tools Ministry in Moscow to transfer the profits of their factory to other machine-tool factories in neighbouring Belarusia, so that these factories could supply the "Fortieth October" with essential lubricating oils and petrol.

Mr Krinickas also thought that, if necessary, his factory might buy up Lithuanian food and ship it to factories elsewhere in the Soviet Union in return for raw materials.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 16

Russian factor plagues Latvia

From Our Special Correspondent, Riga

IF LATVIAN independence is declared by the republic's supreme soviet when it meets next week, as seems almost certain, it may lead to serious problems with the huge Russian-speaking population.

This conclusion emerged from the meeting of 5,000 Latvian deputies in Riga at the weekend, which demanded independence by an overwhelming show of hands.

Leading members of the Popular Front, which is leading the drive for independence, afterwards admitted that the wishes of the 48 per cent of Russian-speakers in the republic had not yet been adequately taken into account, and there are fears that ethnic conflict could result.

Several deputies, including the Deputy Mayor of Riga, said that the declaration of independence itself would be on the Lithuanian model, but that the general strategy would be different.

Mr Dainis Ivans, chairman of the Popular Front, said that a working draft accepted a transitional period to independence, retained the rules of the Soviet Constitution where not in conflict with the Latvian Constitution, and established a commission to reintroduce the Constitution of the independent Latvian republic approved in 1922.

Intensive policy discussions are taking place between the Popular Front and smaller parties, such as the Farmers, but few Russian deputies were present at the meeting, and none of those Russian-speaking deputies of the Popular Front was on the list of speakers or appeared at the press conference afterwards.

The Front has some evidence for its claim that about a third of Russians in Riga, which has a Russian-speaking majority of 63 per cent, voted for it in the elections.

One member of the Front's board said that Russian members of the Front were not happy with the pace of moves towards independence, and were not sure that their supporters would follow them.

"Many Russians who have voted for the Front become more cautious when the question of separation is actually raised," the member said. Rapid moves towards legal independence risked undoing recent efforts by Front leaders to woo over the Russian population.

A government commission on combating AIDS is also to be set up.

Moscow plans Aids safeguards

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

THE Soviet Parliament is considering a Bill that would provide legal safeguards for those infected with the AIDS virus, limit compulsory AIDS testing, and bring to justice those, including negligent medical staff, found guilty of infecting others with the virus.

The Bill has been tabled in view of new projections which suggest the Soviet Union could have as many as 1.5 million people HIV-positive by the year 2000. Mr Igor Denisov, the recently appointed Minister of Health, the Soviet Parliament's Chamber of Nationalities yesterday that the number of HIV-positive individuals in the Soviet Union had escalated since the first case was registered in March, 1987.

There were now 984 people recorded as being infected with the virus, of whom 502 were foreigners; 29 people were ill with full-blown AIDS.

The new measures, Mr Denisov said, would cost half a billion roubles (£500 million). They would involve legal protection for those registered as ill or infected with the AIDS virus. Compulsory AIDS tests could be carried out only with the permission of a legal officer, medical officers would be made legally responsible for publishing accurate statistics on the disease, and medical staff who flouted hygiene regulations would be liable for prosecution.

President Anatoli Gorbunov of Latvia declared that

Victory for Croat right could split Yugoslavia

From Dessa Trivisan, Belgrade

DR FRANJO TUDJMAN'S Croatian Democratic Union, nationalistic with a strong leaning to separation, looks set to sweep away 45 years of Communist rule in the Yugoslav republic of Croatia with a crushing win in the first democratic parliamentary elections.

It won an absolute majority in 61 out of 109 constituencies in Sunday's elections, leaving behind all its rivals, including the reformed communist party.

The communists, who have changed their name to "Democratic Change", were ahead in 37 regions, but partial results from more than half of 196 electoral districts nevertheless showed that very few communist candidates are likely to win an absolute majority and will therefore have to run in the second round set for May 6.

The moderate coalition of National Accord trailed far behind the two main rivals, its support having come from intellectual groups in the towns which, however, was not even enough to provide a majority in more than a few constituencies.

In Slovenia, which embarked on democratic parliamentary elections two weeks ago, the Communists lost power to a coalition of Social Democrats and Greens.

Solidarity returns to its roots

From Roger Boyes
Gdansk

SOLIDARITY, the Polish trade union, took a step away from party politics at its second congress yesterday.

"The union will not create its own party," said a motion which was expected to be passed and formally incorporated into the Solidarity programme. "But it does not rule out creating its own trade union representatives in Parliament and local councils."

Dr Leszek Balcerowicz, the Polish Finance Minister, under-fire from his Solidarity colleagues, appealed to the union to support his tough austerity programme and ease the pain of unemployment by running job agencies.

But the congress delegates were in no mood to applaud the minister. "How do you intend to handle the social unrest that your policies will cause?" asked one.

Dr Balcerowicz said unemployment was 2 per cent of the workforce, compared to between 8 per cent and 10 per cent in the West. Inflation, he said, had fallen to about 5 per cent in April, and should fall further in May. In the second half of last year it threatened to reach 3,000 per cent.

Delegates accused Dr Balcerowicz of achieving this turn-around only by leading Poland into deep recession.

The congress continued to push for accelerated reforms in the secret and uniformed police. One motion urged that all police officers should be positively vetted to see if they were involved in violence during the martial law period between 1982 and 1985.



Two Japanese girls looking at segments of the Berlin Wall at a display at a Tokyo department store yesterday. The 10ft-high sections, which weigh three tons, are covered with graffiti on one side but are clean on the other, mute testimony to the fact that the people on the East German side could not get near the Wall

One-for-one mark offer boosts East Germany

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

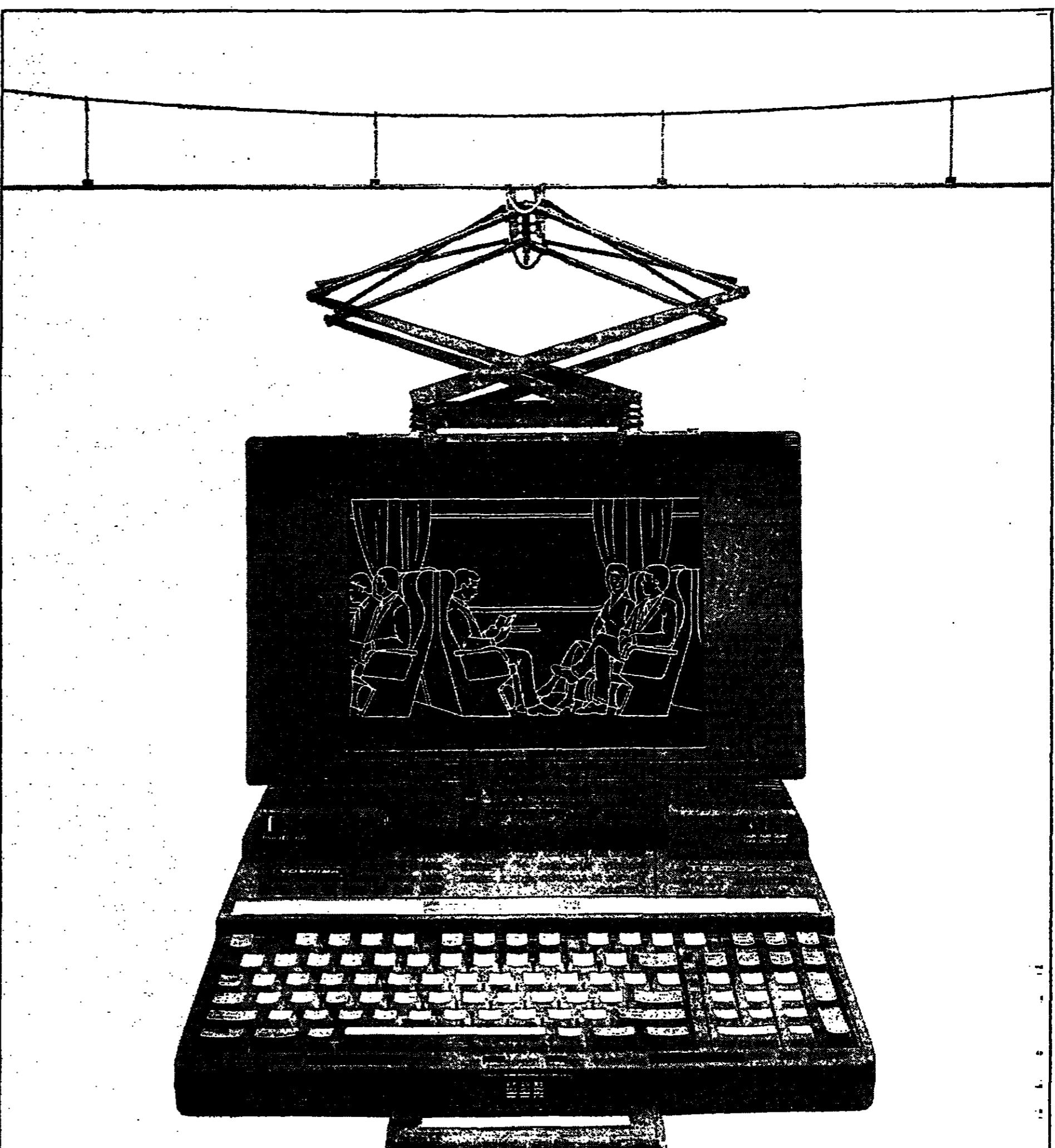
THE announcement by Bonn of a proposed conversion rate of one Ostmark to one Deutschemark in the forthcoming currency union left East Germany's fledgling coalition Government a welcome boost to its credibility as a strong bargaining power in the unification negotiations.

The decision is widely seen here as a triumph for the new Government headed by Herr Lothar de Maizière, the Prime Minister, over the mightier forces of the West German Bundesbank and the economic advisers of Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor.

The new government spokesman, Herr Matthias Gehler, interpreted the offer of parity exchange for wages, pensions and savings of up to 4,000 marks (£1,350) as a fulfilment of the conditions set by Herr de Maizière in his speech to the East German Parliament last week.

A previously uninspiring speaker widely seen as a cypher for swift unity and currency conversion when he came to power, Herr de Maizière has emerged unexpectedly over the past few days as the mouth that roared.

According to the East German youth newspaper *Junge Welt*, a group of officers sent a letter to Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Defence Minister, expressing themselves in favour of the dissolution of the East German Army.



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Prisoners inflamed

Louis Blom-Cooper

Whill seven prisoners at Strangeways prison continue their mutinous conduct (mutiny as such ceased to be a discrete prison disciplinary offence a few years ago), the inquiry under Lord Justice Woolf can only plan the programme for assembling the massive evidence that it will have to adduce and assimilate. The assessment of that evidence, if it is to go beyond the mere examination of the precipitating causes of the disturbance, will require expert assistance.

Lord Justice Woolf is known to have asked the Home Secretary to appoint two or three such experts from among retired prison officials, Home Office researchers and the field of academic criminology. The use of assessors for non-statutory public inquiries is now modish. In the Hillsborough inquiry, Lord Justice Taylor was assisted by assessors on technical issues relating to crowd control at football stadiums. Lord Justice Butler-Sloss in the Cleveland inquiry on child sex abuse was advised in a similar manner. But it is a technique that should be discouraged. Assessors are neither fish nor fowl in the due process of public investigations of human disasters or social policy issues.

The single High Court judge who is appointed to reflect public confidence in the inquiry and the impartiality of its report may indeed need specialist help in giving proper weight to evidence. The administration of a modern prison system requires detailed and expert knowledge of the complex alchemy of staff-inmate relationships. But if Lord Justice Woolf needs such help he should be given it, either by putting the experts on the tribunal as members or by ensuring that they come before him to give evidence, as they would in a court of law.

The objectionable feature of the system of assessors is that they sit alongside the judge, giving every appearance of being participants in the process of eliciting and evaluating the evidence, but having no vote in deciding issues and no responsibility for writing the report. Of course, Lord Justice Woolf, by reputation, is likely to pay very great attention to the views of his assessors, and will no doubt involve them in both decision-making and authorship of the report. But the decisions and the report will be his alone.

My experience in chairing two child abuse inquiries in 1985 and 1987 convinced me of the inestimable value of having panel members from relevant disciplines to share the responsibility of making fair and accurate pronouncement on issues of social policy. Lawyers play an important part in the public inquiry process, but they have no monopoly of wisdom on issues that reach beyond the law. Lawyers should

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

We had Max to stay for the weekend. He came on Thursday evening, and he left an hour ago, and what I am currently wondering is whether the experiences of this weekend will affect Max for the rest of his life.

Not that any of those experiences seemed momentous at the time. It was a normal weekend, a few meals, a few drinks, and, as you would expect from Max, if you knew him, a few laughs. Max is a gas. At dinner on Thursday, Max put his spoon in his ear, got a laugh, and never looked back. Did the spoon routine three days running. Got a laugh every time.

Whether it will be incorporated into his permanent repertoire, time alone will tell. Tommy Cooper did the hat number for 30 years. The spoon act doesn't bother me. Were you wondering what did bother me, the magic door would be a good place to start.

We were in the green bathroom at the time. Max took me aside after dinner and confided his pressing need. So I showed him to the green bathroom, and when he saw it he was knocked out. He had never seen a green bathroom before. His bathroom at home was blue, he said. He became so animated about the green bathroom, he could think of little else. He forgot why he was there. I reminded him. Max pointed out that the bathroom cabinet was green. He asked if he could open its door. I said it was a magic door, and it opened only when you did a wee-pee. You know the rest. The magic door opened a for during the next four days.

Friday luncheon there was nobody else about, so Max and I played with our food. We had a terrific time. Who would think you could build a passable elephant out of mashed potato? And once you've built it and it has a name, how can you possibly eat it? You can ice-cream instead. Then, if you're two years old, it gives you an idea. You want to go to the Zoo. The person you're lurching with doesn't want to go to the Zoo, but if you turn your lip down, he chuckles in the sponge. He would not if he were your father or mother, but your father and mother are in Paris, and you have not been slow to twig that

an uncle is a pushover. If you do not want to wear your coat for the Zoo and your uncle tries to get you into your coat, after a bit your uncle says oh what the hell. That is the difference between uncles and fathers. Fathers are inflexible because fathers have responsibilities. With fathers, you sit there until all the mashed potato is eaten; with fathers, you wear your coat when you go out, or you don't go out. Fathers tell themselves that ground rules have to be laid down early. Fathers are sticklers for the acorn-oak theory. Fathers are a pain in the nappy.

Fathers treat zoos as educational opportunities. If, however, you tell an uncle three times that a polar bear is a lion, an uncle says oh what the hell. Nor does an uncle know whether your parents demand feed you Smarties. Or come. He wants you to have a good time. Fathers want you to have a good time. Fathers want you to have a clean face so that one day you can be a big cheese in corporate finance.

They want you to be healthy, wealthy and wise. Uncles, on the other hand, should you reappear at 9.30, dragging a teddy by its ear through the middle of *Jeeves and Wooster*, will chortle at your identification of Stephen Fry as Postman Pat, and let you stay up.

They also differ markedly

from fathers on the question of literature. Fathers wish to instil respect for books as the precious life-blood of a master spirit.

Uncles, should you begin pulling books from the shelves, will actually help you build them into a house, and if the one book big enough for a door happens to be Hogarth's *Complete Engravings*, an item only marginally improved by chocolate thumbprints, what the hell.

But, as I watched him toddle down the path just now, I felt a slight unease. Life's programming is a capricious enterprise: the odd rogue moment may wield disproportionate influence. If Kane hadn't had a sledge called Rosebud...

So this was written for Max. Just in case, one distant day, he wonders why he can't eat mashed potato. Never mind the curious business with the magic door.

Blockade that demands to be broken

The Soviet Union, like Hitler, has always lied on a grand scale. Until this month it brazenly maintained that it was the Nazis, not the Russians, who massacred the 10,000 Polish officers at Katyn Forest in 1940. Fear of offending the Soviet Union, governments, including our own, acquiesced in the lie. Mr Gorbachov is still telling the big lie about the Baltic states, and we are still acquiescing in it.

The three Baltic states, all of them prosperous, signed treaties with the Soviet Union in 1920 by which Moscow unreservedly recognized their sovereignty "for eternity". All became members of the League of Nations. Moscow subsequently made non-aggression treaties with them. Then in 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact gave the green light to Stalin to seize the Baltic states, whenever convenient for him. This he did in 1940, savagely incorporating them into the Soviet Union.

Elections were held with only communist candidates allowed.

Normally prisoners, like children, are obedient to the authority of the prison governor and his staff, because they acknowledge that they live in a world where obedience is the norm. But if the spell of normality is broken by a challenge (as it was in the prison chapel in Strangeways on April 1), authority is thrown back on forces other than those inculcated by habit and convention.

The instincts of prisoners — creative or self-assertive — are suppressed in the crush of imprisonment. Touched off by a single act of gross disobedience, these instincts are released explosively in the exhilaration of defiance and action. The tendency to independent, aggressive acts of destruction of the prison and the continued denial to authority of its right (and duty) to exercise power of control and management is all the greater because prison has failed largely to provide any outlet for these instincts.

The prison service in England and Wales has failed in that regard, not because of unwillingness to recognize the demands upon the service, but because, under the pressure of two decades of almost relentless overcrowding, it has been unable to achieve enough towards developing a civilized prison system.

The penal system needs to be turned inside out. Imprisonment has remained obstinately the core of the system, with valiant efforts by sentencers to find ways of keeping offenders out of prison. The starting point to a rational penal policy should always be treatment in the community with imprisonment to be used as a last resort for those serious offenders who manifestly have to be removed out of harm's way because of their dangerousness. To proclaim such a dramatic reversal in penal policy ought to command the voice of more than just a wise and humane judge.

The author has been vice-president of the Howard League for Penal Reform since 1984.

Baltic states freely became Soviet republics and can be allowed to depart, if at all, only on his conditions.

The murders, arrests, imprisonment and deportations of hundreds of thousands, never to be seen again, began when Stalin first marched in. They continued throughout the three-year Nazi occupation from August 1941, there not being any detectable difference between Nazi and communist methods. Once Moscow was back in control, it resumed its remorseless, brutal

colonization of the Baltic states. The native peoples are not in the majority in their own countries; a similar situation to that of the Fijians when they found themselves outnumbered by Indians. Even Russian troops stationed in the Baltic states have a right to vote in their elections.

One of Gorbachov's conditions

is compensation for the communist state factories and other enterprises set up by Moscow

since the war. This is a grisly, sick

joke. All state and private property — houses, businesses, investments and so on — was confiscated without compensation by Stalin.

It is Moscow that should pay compensation for destroying the economies of countries which had once flourished precisely because they were not run by Soviet communism.

It is laughable that some Western politicians believe the big Russian lie that the economies of the Baltic states today and in the future are dependent on the Soviet Union. Disengaged from the Soviet Union, and with some aid from the West, they would soon thrive.

The Baltic states already have a much higher standard of living than the hinterland, which is why the Russian immigrants

were not run by Soviet communism.

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THE TIMES

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 01-782 5000

A QUESTION OF TOLERANCE

Two questions lie before Members of Parliament this week, on which many have found it hard to make up their minds. One concerns the regulation of research into human embryos, the other a possible amendment to the legal time limit on abortion. Whatever their decisions, they are being asked how, in a secular, plural society, one of whose cardinal principles is tolerance, of differing points of view, public policy is to be determined.

These two issues are peculiarly difficult in that context. They both concern a philosophical and even metaphysical question about the beginning of the existence of human life, and about the duty of the community to defend that life once it is recognized. The meaning of the term "human life" is not self-evident. People tend to choose their definition and select their preferred moral calculus according to the result they want to achieve.

Law does not determine the morality of an action. It seeks to interpret that morality only where society has concluded that regulation is needed to enforce it. Lying is generally regarded as wrong, but only in special circumstances is it taken note of by the law. Adultery is a similar case. The real issue is not whether there should be any line at all between public and private morality, but where that line is to be drawn. Denying any role for legal regulation, tolerating everything in a spirit of liberalism, would itself be intolerant of those who strongly favour restriction.

There may be those, though they have not been vocal in recent argument, who believe that all tampering with the human embryo from the moment of egg fertilization may be wrong, but that it should never be subject to criminal sanction. There are others who wish the law to treat any such tampering as murder. Both groups of moral absolutists have been forced, by public opinion to play by the relativists' rules. They have become embroiled in the argument over time limits. That is, even for them, the "lesser of two evils".

The differences over the morality of embryo research and abortion are narrower than they might seem. Nobody would maintain that abortion, or the deformities that embryo research seeks to eliminate, are good things. The predicament of the few parents who personally face these questions is an agonizing one and others intrude on their anguish at risk of hypocrisy. Even those who advocate a complete "woman's right to choose" (or a

scientist's right) do not push that as far as the 39th week of pregnancy, or unrestricted embryology experimentation. Most agree that at some point in time, determined by some judgement of the independence viability of the fetus, the law has to impose regulation.

Parliament has been right to approach these issues as an agency act of governmental authority but of direct democracy. The whips have been off and votes have been free. Some research on embryos is accepted as progress by the majority of the country. Similarly, in passing the Abortion Law Reform Act in 1967, Parliament responded to what was perceived as public acceptability. The change in favour of abortion in Britain is likely to be permanent, but that has not eliminated continued debate about the date of termination. The problem of where to draw the line will thus continue.

In the case of embryos, the Warnock committee's case for a 14-day limit was as convincing a statement of where sanity should rest as can be hoped for. The committee attempted to adjudicate where, for instance, assistance in eliminating inherited disease was outweighed by public aversion to experiments with fertilized eggs. It would be idle to pretend that such a limit is for all time, but for now the public would appear to accept it.

In the case of abortion, the debate has surrounded the concept of independent viability of the fetus. As medical techniques have advanced, the case for an earlier limit on termination has become stronger — as a number of doctors experienced in this field write in *The Times* today. A reduction from 28 weeks to 24 weeks appears at present to enjoy majority expert opinion.

What remains, however, is tolerance. The task of drawing a line in a manner which some people regard as life and death will never be uncontroversial. Since this life and death is close to the personal experience of many, the controversy will naturally be heated. But that is why Parliament exists and that is why good democrats accept the rule of law, even when they may disagree with its conclusions.

BUT tolerance is still to play for. These are moral issues of a high order. Those who feel their views have been overridden by the charisms of democracy may owe obedience to the law. But tolerance and respect is also owed to those whose religious and moral convictions leave them deeply disturbed.

ASSAD'S CHOICE

Syria's role in the release of Mr Robert Polhill, one of three American academics seized 39 months ago in Beirut, demonstrates that where the *"Allah will"* government which have allowed groups such as Islamic Jihad to flourish in territories they control will find a way to liberate their victims. That consideration should temper the gratitude the Syrian Government expects of the West.

It should not be forgotten that it was via Syria that Iranian terrorism penetrated Lebanon, or that the Palestinian group headed by Mr Ahmed Jibril, which is believed to have been responsible for the blowing up of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in December 1988, still operates out of Damascus. Professor Polhill's two colleagues remain in captivity, as do other Western hostages, suggesting that both Iran and Syria still see innocent Western captives as bargaining chips.

Even so, the scope for diplomacy increases when hostages are at least seen to be more valuable alive and free than captive or subjected to video-taped executions. President Assad's decision probably reflects his customary pragmatism rather than any sudden conversion to the rule of law. That is the basis on which Damascus should be pressed to come in from the cold.

The pressure so far has stemmed from the gradual reversal of the two superpowers' roles in Syria. Since 1987, Washington has been steadily moving from confrontation to accommodation in its relations with President Assad, while keeping Syria firmly out of the peace talks it is attempting to launch between Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians. The decisive counterpoint to American diplomacy has been the changed stance of Syria's traditional patron, the Soviet Union.

Syria was put under notice that Moscow could no longer afford, and no longer needed,

to support embarrassing allies with the arrival last year as Soviet Ambassador to Damascus of Mr Alexander Zolotov, a senior Arabist responsible for the Middle East desk whose good connections with Israel were well known in Damascus. He informed President Assad that Moscow was not prepared to bankroll attempts to achieve military parity with Israel. Syria should therefore explore the possibilities of negotiation with Israel, and listen to its

Western critics.

The message appears to have been taken. Publicly, President Assad continues to call for a jihad against Israel. Behind the scenes, there have been diplomatic feelers, reinforced by messages that Syria was prepared at some point to talk, conveyed to the Israeli Government by such visitors to Damascus as former President Carter. Syria's help in the release of Mr Polhill fits in this broader pattern of accommodation.

The case for a restoration of British relations with Syria, broken off in 1986 in the light of clear evidence of official Syrian involvement in the attempted destruction of an El Al airliner, might look stronger in the light of these trends. It is not yet decisive.

The Government's firm action in 1986 has paid off. Contrary to predictions, British nationals have not become prime targets for terrorism nor have British relations with other Arab states suffered. President Assad's credentials cannot be accepted while Mr Terry Waite and other Britons remain hostages in Lebanon, where Syria has 40,000 troops deployed, and while Syria continues to shelter Mr Jibril's group.

The route to resuming diplomatic ties was clearly charted in 1986. It starts in Damascus, and there is no reason for the British Government yet to redraw the map.

CULTURE AND THE CLASSROOM

To condemn as racist the decision to agree to a parent's request that her daughter be transferred from a school where she has apparently been taught to recite nursery rhymes in Urdu shows muddled prejudice. That is what the Commission for Racial Equality has done in stigmatizing a decision by Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education, to uphold the agreement of Cleveland County Council to the girl's transfer. This is, says the Commission, "a potential charter for racists".

Equally misguided is the assertion by some Islamic spokesmen that the decision buttresses their campaign for state-funded separate Muslim schools. The issue here is not one of sectarian or racially divided schools; it concerns the relationship between education and the cultural environment.

The meanings of the words "race" and "racism" are always highly disputable. But the absurdity of the allegation of racism in this case is thrown into relief by the fact that the child in question happens to be of mixed race.

The question at issue is clear and simple. What is to be done when parents who wish their child to be educated adequately in the majority English-language culture find that precious class-time is being given to bolstering the cultural background of a group which is large in the school but in a minority in the country as a whole?

This is not the first time the question has been in the public eye. It underlies the case of the Bradford headmaster, Mr Ray Honeyford, who was driven from his job for raising the difficulties faced by English culture children in schools in which they were the minority. The

Bristol teacher, Mr Jonathan Savery, faced a long campaign, which eventually led to his redundancy, because he insisted that his essential job in multi-cultural education was to teach English, not "multi-culturalism", to children who lacked it. Three years ago, parents in Dewsbury, after taking court action on educational grounds for the transfer of their children from a school which was nearly 90 per cent Asian, won a victorious settlement.

To say that state schools should give priority to education in the English language and culture does not imply that minorities should not take action to ensure that their children keep their original cultural links. They have their example in the Muslim and Jewish schools which already exist — as educational supplements outside ordinary school hours.

Nor are the decision of the Cleveland County Council to allow this transfer, and Mr MacGregor's rejection of the CRE's ruling against it, signs that parental choice overrides all other considerations. Mr MacGregor has simply recognized the fact that parents have had the legal right since 1980 to ask for their children to be transferred, without giving reasons, with local education authorities still having the right to determine feasibility.

Those who are genuinely concerned to foster good relations between different racial and cultural communities should be wary of making accusations of racism against parents seeking an education for their children suitable for the society in which they will live. Such accusations are more likely to breed racism than to prevent it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gestation limit for abortion

From Dr D. B. Painter and others

Sir, As senior consultants gynaecologists, we support the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967. We consider that gynaecologists should continue to be able to provide legal termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks when this is necessary to protect physical or mental health and, in exceptional circumstances, beyond that limit when the foetus is gravely abnormal or the life of the mother is threatened by continuation of the pregnancy.

Late abortions are always performed after the most careful consideration of all the circumstances and with great reluctance. This is shown by the fact that in 1988-92 only 22 abortions (of an annual total of 183,000) were performed after the 24th week and less than 2 per cent of all abortions were performed after the 20th week.

Gynaecologists need to retain the discretion they currently have to perform late abortion on the relatively rare occasions when this is necessary. A gestation limit of less than 24 weeks would force some women to continue a pregnancy in the face of a serious threat to their health or in spite of grave abnormality in the foetus. Yours etc,

MICHAEL HESELTINE,
House of Commons.
From Mrs Margaret Daly, MEP
for Somerset and Dorset West
(European Democrat
(Conservative)

Sir, Mr Congdon may be right to

question whether EMU (European Monetary Union) is unavoidable.

On the other hand, when he cites

the merits of the pound sterling as

a currency for long-term contracts,

he is on shakier ground.

For example, an endowment

policy, technically written in

Prison interest

From Mrs J. C. Veale, JP

Sir, Explosions of unrest in penal establishments would be much less likely if the public demanded its entitlement. For the most part the public acts as if some 46,000 fellow citizens, costing the taxpayer in excess of £750 million per annum, do not exist. A quiescent prison population attracts little public interest.

A public caring sufficiently to

demand a proper account of the

prison system would want to

know why appropriate asylum is

not found for thousands of men-

tally disturbed and seriously so-

cially inadequate prisoners and

why it is necessary to remand

youths to overflowing adult

prisons.

Your faithfully,

JUDY VEALE (Member),

Boards of Visitors Co-ordinating

Committee,

28 Fore Street,

Bere Alston,

Yeovil, Devon.

From Mr P. J. Saunders

Sir, When events such as those at

Strangeways happen the first and

immediate action is to bring them

under control by fire and prompt

action — not by endless negotia-

tion.

The result of procrastination by

those concerned is millions of

pounds worth of damage to that

prison, which will have to be paid

for by taxpayers, the loss of respect

for authority as epitomised by the

recent riots in other prisons and

consequent injury and damage.

Inevitably the majority of pris-

oners are released into the

community. Therefore it is in the

interest of the public to demand

prison regimes which improve an

offender's chances of finding a

home and employment and re-

duce the risks of reoffending.

The usual and practical solution

for this problem is usually re-

flected in the reduction of the

purchase price. Maybe one should

be looking at the price being asked

for insolvent businesses to es-

tablish whether this is the depressing

factor in the sale of businesses to

which Mr Hughes refers.

Yours faithfully,

M. A. WESTON,

Burton Yeates Westbury

(Solicitors),

38 St Martin's Lane, WC2.

April 17.

Sanctions in S Africa

From Mr R. C. Green

Sir, Having recently spent a

month in South Africa I am

somewhat mystified about the so-

called sanctions. Mercedes Benz,

BMW, Opel, Volkswagen, Ford,

Nissan and Toyota are all assem-

bled in South Africa. I understand

that BMW are spending some 500

billion rand launching the new 3

series. In short the products of

Italy were much in evidence as

were all domestic machines from

the same country.

Most affluent blacks were seen

to be driving in very large shiny

new Mercedes-Benz and I noticed

from the television that this was

the make of vehicle favoured by

Mr Mandela.

Mrs Thatcher seems to be

unpopular with our European

partners, Mr Mandela and the

Labour Party for wishing to



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 22: The Duke of Edinburgh, President and Honorary Life Fellow, this evening presented the Benjamin Franklin Medal for 1989 to Mr Sam Wanamaker at a reception for the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, at Windsor Castle.

The Queen was represented by the Lord Somerleyton (Lord in Waiting) at the Memorial Service for Major-General Sir Julian Gascoigne (formerly Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda) which was held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, today. The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by General Sir David Fraser. The Duke and Duchess of

Princess Alexandra and the Hon. Sir Angus Ogilvy celebrate the twenty-seventh anniversary of their marriage today.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will open the Old Warmer Day Centre, Straight Road, 10.30. The Duke of Edinburgh, trustee, will attend a meeting of the Trustees of The Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, at 5.45; and a dinner at the Guildhall, Windsor, at 6.30.

Queen Elizabeth II, The Queen Mother will open the WRVS home at Pinewood, near Bromley, Kent, at 3.00.

The Princess of Wales, as President of Barnardo's, will visit Mountbatten Primary School, Forest Road, at 10.45 where the charity will be holding a pro-fund-raising service; and will visit the Barnardo's shop at 8/13 High Street, Loughborough, at 11.30. She will visit Ladybird Books, Beeches Road, Loughborough, at 12.05; and, as Patron of the English Women's Indoor Bowls Association, will open the Charlwood Indoor Bowling Centre, Loughborough, at 1.45. Later she will visit the Memphis Centre for Handicapped Children, Wigston, Leicestershire, at 2.50.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, will visit clubs in Hertfordshire starting at Brookside at 10.25. The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, will open a new Day Care Unit at the Maidens' Law Hospital, Dorking, at 1.50; and will open the Teikyo University of Japan at Durham University at 12.55.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr F.P.E. Mander

and Miss G.J. Thring. The engagement is announced between Francis, younger son of Sir Charles and Lady Mander, of Little Barrow, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and Georgina, elder daughter of Commander and Mrs Edward Thring, of Ragsdale Park, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Mr J.D. Boyle

and Mrs V.M. Sweetingham. The engagement is announced between Desmond, only son of Mr and Mrs J.P. Boyle, of Galashiels, Scotland, and Virginia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D.G. Meade of Yew Tree, Hightown, Liverpool.

Mr W.P.N. Duxin

and Miss L.V. Jones. The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Tim Deskin, of The Homestead, Ricklingham, Suffolk, and Lucy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Jones, of Storridge House, Alvechurch, Worcestershire.

Mr R.L.C. Harris

and Miss C.E.A. Sarte. The engagement is announced between Ian, younger son of the late Hon. Mr Justice Harris and Mrs Harris, of Nairobi, Kenya, and Caroline, daughter of the late Mr Hugh Sarge and of Mrs Sarge, of St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Mr G.A. Jeffery

and Miss J. Fanning. The engagement is announced between George, elder son of Mr and Mrs Katherina Jeffery and Mrs Clifford of Chesham, Bucks, Buckinghamshire, and Emma Jane, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Fanning of Hook End, Blackmore, Essex.

Mr J.R.L. Langmead

and Miss E.M. Raincock. The engagement is announced between Rupert, only son of Mr Ian Langmead, of Flansham, West Sussex, and Mrs Norma Langmead, of Le Rayon-Canaud, France, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Commander and Mrs Brian Raincock, of Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex.

Mr I. Laverick

and Miss S.M. Ongstos. The engagement is announced between Christian, younger son of Herr and Frau J. Weizmann, of Manner, Luxembourg, and Susanna Chloe, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Noel Thomas, of Sunningdale, Berkshire.

Marriages

Mr H.J. Henn and Miss C.E. Rogers. A service of blessing was held at St Peter and St Paul Church, Shore, on April 14, after the marriage of Mr Heinz Henn, son of the late Mr P. Henn and of Mrs B. Henn and Caroline, daughter of the late Dr N. Rogers and of Mrs E. Rogers.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother Adrian and attended by Jane Carol, Louise Norman, Jane Rudolph and Thomas Jones. Steven McCaughey was best man. A reception was held at Sean's, Knightsbridge, and the honeymoon is being spent in the Maldives.

Mr J. Purcell

and Miss H.K. Paul. The marriage took place on Saturday, April 21, at St Michael's Church, Paddington, London. The bride, Mrs Michaela Purcell, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Purcell, and Miss Henrietta Paul, eldest daughter of Mr Thomas Smith was best man.

York were represented by Captain Neil Blair, RN.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 23: The Duke of Gloucester this morning performed the Topping Out Ceremony of the five restoration works at Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 23: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the United Kingdom Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference, today chaired a meeting of the Trustees at 22 Hill Street, London W1.

Mr Andrew Palmer was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Sir Bernard Audley, founder AGC Research, 66; Mr Ralph Brown, sculptor, 62; Field Marshal Lord Carver, 75; Sir Bernard Caulfield, former High Court judge, 76; Mr J.E.H. Gunther, former chairman, Guaranty Royal Export Assurance Group, 67; Sir Gordon Cochrane, 84; Sir Clement Freud, former MP and writer, 66; Dame Helen Gardner, former chief clerk, Private Secretary's Office, Buckingham Palace, 89; Admiral Sir Ra McKie, 68; Miss Shirley MacLaine, actress, 56; Sir Hugh Park, former High Court judge, 80; Mr Joseph Rankin, president, Rankin Hovis McDougall, 72; Mrs Bridget Riley, 64; 59; Miss Barbara Shani, singer, 48; Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Townsend, founder, Hill House International Junior School, 81; Mr John Williams, guitarist, 49.

Receptions

Cartoon Club/United and Cecil Club

The Prime Minister was the principal guest at a reception given by the Cartoon Club and the United and Cecil Club at the Cartoon Club last night. Viscount Whitelaw, CH, Chairman of the Cartoon Club, and Sir Marcus Fox, MP, Chairman of the United and Cecil Club, were there.

CSV

The Lord Mayor of Westminister, the mayor of London boroughs, the Secretary of State for Social Security and the Most Reverend Bishop of London attended a reception given yesterday by CSV (Community Service Volunteers) on board HMS President to mark its twenty-eighth anniversary. Lord Windlesham, a trustee, was the host.

Captain C.J. Long and Miss S.J. Fitzgerald

The engagement is announced between Sebastian, only son of Mr and Mrs John Lawrence Mills of Peart Hall, Spaxton, Somerset, and Joanna Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs David McClure Fisher, of The Orchard House, Upper Basildon, Berkshire.

Mr T.P. McCubbin and Miss C.N. Jones

The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr Thomas McCubbin, of Mynydd Isa, Clywd, and Mrs Pamela McCubbin, of Wrexham, Clywd, and Caroline, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Malcolm Norcliffe Jones, Sale, Cheshire.

Dr G.E. McLean and Miss P.C.J. Chapman

The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs E.K. McLean, of Tarring Village, West Sussex, and Penny, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Chapman, of Worthing, West Sussex.

Mr A.M. Prosser and Miss P.K. Fazan

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Clifford Prosser, of Lancaster, and Philippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs L. Paul Rees, of Highgate, London.

Mr R.W. Rawlings and Miss C. Fazan

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Clifford Rawlings, of 52 Lansdowne Road, Clarendon, Cardiff, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy Fazan, of Haynesbrook, Haynes Drive, Cleve Hill, Cheltenham.

Herr C. Weitzmann and Miss S.C. Thomas

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Paulette Goddard, the Hollywood star, died yesterday aged 78 at her home in Switzerland. She was born on June 3, 1911.

Pretty and vivacious, she was twice a leading lady for her second husband, Charles Chaplin, and her appealing performances in *Modern Times* and *The Great Dictator* were among the highlights of a career which faded after early promise.

For a brief period during the 1940s she was one of Hollywood's most popular and highest paid stars. She was often cast in exotic roles and if her films were often less than memorable her energy, natural beauty and gift for comedy often transcended indifferent material.

She was born Marion Levy in Great Neck, Long Island. Forced at the age of 14 to become the family bread-winner she joined the Ziegfeld Follies. In 1927 she was in the chorus for the New York production of *Rio Rita* but temporarily abandoned her career on marrying Edgar James, a wealthy timber magnate. When the marriage broke up she went to Hollywood, where she got small parts in films and was put under contract by Hal Roach.

In the early Thirties she met Chaplin, who decided to buy out her contract and take her under his wing. He got her to change her blonde hair back to its original Brunette, and planned his next film with her in mind. This was *Modern Times*, which was several years in the making and finally appeared in 1936.

Goddard played the barefooted gamine who befriends Chaplin's luckless tramp and, in a celebrated final sequence, walks arm in arm with him into the sunset. Her fresh and authentic performance was widely acclaimed.

She and Chaplin were married secretly at sea, but it was four years before his next picture, *The Great Dictator*. In the meantime she had been pursuing her career independently and was one of the few of Chaplin's protégés to do so successfully. She was in the running for the most sought after part of the 1930s, Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the*

Wind. She lost it to Vivien Leigh but other films helped to compensate, notably the splendid horror comedies, *The Cat and the Canary* and *The Ghost Breakers*, in which she was teamed with Bob Hope.

The Great Dictator, Chaplin's satire on Hitler, brought another fetching performance as the poor Jewish girl. But their personal relationship had deteriorated and they were divorced in 1942. The break did not hurt her professionally, and the next few years saw the peak of her popularity. She did another comedy with Hope, *Nothing But the Truth*, was a spunky heroine for Cecil B. De Mille in *Reap the Wild Wind* and *Unconquered*, and was excellent in *Kitty*, as the garrulous wife who has enjoyed her comparatively brief period of celebrity.

During 1947 she made her first picture in Britain, playing Mrs Chevely in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* for Sir Alexander Korda. Off the set, her indulgence in furs and expensive jewellery brought a touch of ostentatious glamour to austerity Britain.

Back in the United States she signed a new and lucrative contract with Paramount but instead of continuing to flourish, her career petered out in a succession of B pictures and

PAULETTE GODDARD

Paulette Goddard with Charlie Chaplin in *Modern Times* (1936)

In 1946 she gave one of her best performances as the 19th century servant girl in *The Diary of a Chambermaid*, which was made during his exile in Hollywood by the French director Jean Renoir. He had particularly wanted her for the part. The film was written and co-produced by Burgess Meredith, who had become her third husband.

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After Remarque's death in 1970 she resisted the temptation to make further screen come-backs, preferring the luxurious anonymity of a former star who had enjoyed her comparatively brief period of celebrity.

By 1954 was virtually over. She had not been able to attract parts of sufficient quality and, now that she was wealthy and not compelled to work, the motivation had weakened.

In 1958 she married the German-born writer, Erich Maria Remarque, author of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, and went to live in Switzerland. She returned once to the cinema in the 1960s, playing Claudia Cardinale's mother in an Italian film, *Time of Indifference*, and did occasional television work.

After Remarque's death in 1970 she resisted the temptation to make further screen come-backs, preferring the luxurious anonymity of a former star who had enjoyed her comparatively brief period of celebrity.

He was succeeded by a study of British troops in Egypt during the pre-war years and how their preparation fitted them for the campaign against Rommel in the Western Desert. He went on to assist Professor W. K. Hancock and wrote a detailed study of the changing structure of government as it related to the armed forces from 1850 to the post-1945 period.

Returning to Oxford he resumed his fellowship at Merton, teaching both modern

NORMAN GIBBS

Professor Norman Henry Gibbs, who was the Chichele Professor of the History of War at Oxford University from 1953 to 1977 and an Emeritus Fellow of All Souls, died aged 80 on April 20. He was born on April 17, 1910.

NORMAN Gibbs' appointment to the Chichele Chair in 1953 marked a turning point in the study of military and naval history at Oxford. Moving away from military men, self-trained historians and journalists, Oxford turned to one of its own academics to raise the reputation and credibility of this area of study. His 24-year tenure of the chair, the longest of all who have held it since its establishment in 1909, saw the consolidation of war history as a respectable academic field and allowed Oxford to play a leading role in the resurgence of military studies in Britain.

Trained in English medieval history, Gibbs completed his DPhil thesis at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1935 under K. B. McFarlane, on "The History of Reading in the later Middle Ages". His first university posts were as assistant lecturer at University College London, 1934-36, and tutor in modern history at Merton College, Oxford, 1936-39.

In all these endeavours he was remarkably successful. His inaugural lecture, *The Origins of the Committee of Imperial Defense*, became a basic reference on the subject providing themes which several of his graduate students carried forward.

He made great contributions as well in the area of service education. Working initially with the Royal Air Force, he began a series of courses to qualify officers for staff college studies.

His success in this area led him to expand teaching to include senior

Andrew Gibbon Williams finds the character of the European City of Culture well expressed in two exhibitions

That's Glasgow all over

No scheme is too ambitious or expensive for the City of Culture, it seems. At a cost of £1.5 million, the architect Doug Clelland and his team have reclaimed 7,000 square metres of long-forgotten space beneath Glasgow's Central Station. In it – for a further £3.5 million – they have mounted Glasgow's Glasgow, Britain's largest-ever temporary exhibition.

They might as well have tried to mount an exhibition about "Life, the Universe and Everything". The cultural, political and industrial history of the great Scottish metropolis is so vast a subject that even in this mammoth event one can only glimpse some of its aspects.

Billed hyperbolically as "A City Within a City", the exhibition has within it a theatre, cinemas and restaurants. Extending the analogy, the displays are laid out geographically rather than chronologically, roughly divided north-south as the River Clyde divides the city. Some themes of the 18 different sections take their cues from places – ship-building from Govan, for example – while others derive from particular phenomena which have given Glasgow its individual character. Thus, immigration provides a starting point for one, the 1707 Act of Union for another.

This undogmatic approach towards arrangement certainly allows the exhibition to be as comprehensive as possible. Everything from Viking sarcophagi to Bar's Ira Bru (Scotland's favoured non-alcoholic tipple), has found a niche; but this wide scope also tends to confuse.

All manner of art objects and artefacts are used to illustrate the various themes: at one moment a fine portrait of some 18th-century industrialist offers itself up for enjoyment, at another, the spectator is asked to marvel at the precision engineering of a ship's engine. Then, pity and disgust are



Avant-garde? "Life Grows Harder", 1988, an oil painting by Ken Currie from the Great British Art Exhibition in Glasgow

demanded by film of Glasgow's hideous slums. From a video screen the most recent local cult-comic, Rab E Nesbit, tells a joke or two.

A sense of befuddlement is not helped by the plethora of signposts indicating Glasgow's distance from commercially related towns and cities. But this confusion is as nothing compared with the confusion which is caused by technological overkill.

Glasgow's Glasgow is the most multifarious multi-media event I can recall. At the entrance, a bank of 30 television monitors demonstrates the scope of Clyde Cablevision. There are dozens more within, and there are larger screens, find-out-yourself comput-

ers, and "sound cones" which dispense information like irritating rain from overhead. Unfortunately, contrary to the designers' intentions, it is user-unfriendly.

However, there are beautiful and fascinating things. Among them are Raeburn's "Portrait of a Jew"; a precious music cabinet by Charles Rennie Mackintosh borrowed from Vienna; a tiny Fabergé egg commissioned by the Tsar to commemorate the building of his yacht in Glasgow; and the recently rediscovered "Apostle Carpet" made by the great Glasgow firm, Templeton.

The great strength of the exhibition lies in its refusal to sanitise Glasgow's history. It covers the slums, the disastrous post-

war housing schemes and the collapse of the city's heavy industry. The fine arts share the stage with football and beer. And questions are asked about Glasgow's future.

What emerges – in spite of the unnerving technological bedlam – is the personality of Glaswegians, a distinct race of outgoing entrepreneurs, craftsmen and "hard grafters", whose humorous philosophy of life – like that of that other great immigrant city, New York – owes much to the Jews and the Irish. George Bernard Shaw said that without these two ethnic groups we should all die of boredom. Glasgow will certainly never die of boredom.

This arrangement emphasizes what the catalogue rightly contends is the great strength of contemporary British art: its diversity. But the works on show here do not bear out another of its assertions, that successful British artists confidently continue to develop their individual voices, heedless of their reputations in the market.

Would that it were so.

On this evidence, many of the older generation seem content to rest on their stylistic laurels and rework well-tried formulae. Craige Aitchison has been painting the same delightful picture for years. Bacon's rising isolated figures essentially assumed their present form years ago. Gilbert and George's giant photo-pieces are manufactured with the repetitive, mass-produced *sang-froid* of Warhol.

Only in sculpture do British artists seem capable of adventure. Bill Woodrow, who is represented here by a wobbly, varnished steel machine called "Whenever", is the best known of them, but at the McLellan it is Richard Wentworth's "Pier", boldly straddling two major spaces, which suggests an heroic disdain for the creatively debilitating notion of sellability.

His aim is to show what British contemporary artists are doing right now. So he has selected two or three works by members of what, for want of a better term, could be called the established British avant-garde.

In the City of Culture, everything "belongs to Glasgow", including the Great British Art Exhibition at the McLellan Galleries in Sauchiehall Street, which is not particularly Glaswegian and is not intended to be.

The concept behind the show belongs to the new Director of the Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries, Julian Spalding. Disgruntled by the treacherous unknowns included in the South Bank-organized British Art Show which inaugurated the refurbished mid-Victorian galleries last year, Spalding set about creating his own by way of an antidote.

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Like many good ideas, this is a simple one, perfectly adequate to underpin what must be – however objective the selectors' criteria – a partisan choice. The groupings are equally straightforward: abstract painters such as Hoyland, Hodgkin and Ayens in such room, figurative expressionists such as Bacon, Bellany and Kossoff in another.

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FASHION by Liz Smith

Get into print for a twist in the shirt tale

The classic shirt is back, bigger and better than ever — chic in white, bold in plain washed silk, or simply dazzling in the revived flower-power prints

The simple shirt, that basic dependable in everybody's wardrobe, has lately found itself the focus of some fashionazzazz. Scalloped up a size or two and worn with more swagger, the classic shirt is recognized as having the soft, insouciant and off-hand elegance that is the sophisticated new way to dress.

Although a perfectly plain white shirt, cut on generous lines like a man's, adequately supplies this low-key chic, the irresistible expanse of silk or cotton — or even viscose and polyester — in the big shirt is fueling fashion's current passion for flamboyant print.

Prompted by Christian Lacroix, who pioneered the revival of interest in the colour and prints of Sixties and Seventies psychedelia, and focused fashion's flower-power on the bold simplicity of sunflower and daisy prints, the classic shirt has been given the necessary kick of high-contrast colour to re-establish its place in fashion.

The Hermès heraldic scarf shored into a shirt (a collector's piece at £650) has its legion of imitators at every price level, from Hermès (£14.99) and Principles (£24.99) in the High Street to exclusive designer shops. The translation of Chanel cuffs and panels into an all-over scarf print used for shirts has now been followed by the revival of the kaleidoscopic patterns of Pucci, whose Fiorenza palazzo is currently under siege from a surprising hoard in orders. Anyone who has collected, inherited, or simply packed away a vintage Pucci silk shirt or an early pair of Pucci leggings, will find them eyed with reverence as the new generation of Pucci fans wait for supplies to arrive at Browns in London, which was among the first to spot the trend.

Jane and Helen Littman, the sisters behind the English Eccentrics label, have found their niche, creating printed silks based on historical themes and turning them into scarves and shirts. As well as "Be Prepared", a commemorative scarf commissioned by Jeff Banks for his new Girl Guide uniforms, they have created faux-chinoiserie scarves for the Royal Pavilion shop in Brighton, and a scarf inspired by a Leonardo sculpture for the Royal Academy. Following "Halley's Comet", a best-seller since 1986, English Eccentrics' most popular design is "Attributes", which features symbols of 18th century music, architecture and art (and is used in the silk shirt

photographed top right). Since dispensing with the high overheads of their own London shop, the Littmans have doubled their business selling these silk shirts to stores in New York, London and Paris.

Paul Smith has translated his own collection of souvenir handkerchiefs into a colourful all-over print for one of his man's cotton shirts, which sells for £25 in his shop as well as in Harrods. A collection of flags has similarly inspired the print on a viscose shirt, priced £45.

Betty Jackson's loose signature silhouette comes into its own this season with her gauzy shirts splashed with giant navy and white spots, and the daisy print shown here.

Joseph Ettinger has installed tempting displays of washed silk shirts in a spectrum of 24 colours in his two-man Joseph shops in Knightsbridge. "Designer clothes are so expensive now and you can get a lovely look with just a simple shirt," he says.

"Washed silk hangs beautifully. With the leggings and short skirts being worn this summer, the balance of a big shirt looks right." His range of Equipment shirts, plain or snake and leopard printed, are priced from £59 to £12.

Fenwick sells washed silk shirts by Omi Srl and French Connection in coral, cream, green, purple and navy, all at £59. Next for Men supplies a good-looking range of washed silk shirts in soft colours for £49.99.

The Gap, the American-based chain whose advertising campaigns show style-conscious customers photographed in such classics as the basic white shirt, sells plain shirts up to extra large sizes, with plain or button-down collars, in fine cotton or a thicker weave, from £22. The current price at Marks & Spencer of a man's city shirt in plain white cotton is £29.50.

Wearing a shirt over shiny leggings or pyjama trousers might not appear to have much to do with stylish dressing. In fact this understated brand of chic has always been the hallmark of such legends of style as the Hepburns — both Katharine and Audrey — as well as those mainstays of the international best-dressed list, Jacqueline Onassis or Babe (Mrs William) Paley. Women who have that essential spark that ignites real style have always been able to turn a negative anti-fashion stance, epitomized by a perfectly plain shirt, into a positive and individual fashion statement.



HOTLINE

No 10's wardrobe mistressess

The announcement of a Queen's Award for Export (for the fifth time) to Aquascutum must have buoyed its chairman, Gerald Abrahams, as he settled down to a weekend of negotiations to sell his family-controlled business to the Japanese clothing company, Renown. Recognition of the international achievements of the 150-year-old company clearly helped secure the £74 million selling price on the terms he stipulated, that "every member of staff stays in place".

Aquascutum's most significant achievement is to have become tailors "by appointment" to the Prime Minister. Since March 1987, when it was first asked to send to Downing Street a selection of good-looking full-collared coats to keep Mrs Thatcher snug on a visit to Moscow, Aquascutum has supplied almost all of her wardrobe. Strong-shouldered suits in bold photogenic fabrics — chevron tweed and bound-tooth checks for day, paisley or brocade for evening — with stylish braiding and decorative buttons have become Mrs Thatcher's official uniform. Downing Street's mistress of the robes is Cynthia Crawford ("Crawfie dear", as the Prime Minister calls her), who, as secretary to Sir David Wolfson, has



Power dress: Mrs Thatcher, clothed by Aquascutum for London and Moscow

moved into the unofficial role of lady in waiting. With the help of Gerald Abrahams's wife, Marianne, Aquascutum's design director, it is Crawfie who has steered Mrs Thatcher away from fussy bows and frocks into snappier, more streamlined tailoring.

Aquascutum is a word that slips easily into the international fashion vocabulary. Exports at £30 million account for 70 per cent of the

company's turnover. A replica of the Regent Street shop opened in Seoul in March. Japan has long been a major market for the Aquascutum trench-coat with its club check lining, and Taiwan and Singapore are targeted. "With a strong partner in the Pacific, the possibilities are huge," Mr Abrahams said yesterday.

The Aquascutum sale, page 25

Katharine Wells
Unique service for individually made garments, made-to-measure, plus a choice of others including ready-to-wear. Prices £34-£70.
Couture wear fabric can be made to our design. My stamp place for hand-made fabric. Simple to...
Katharine Wells,
17 Newmarket Street, Finsbury
London EC1V 4EL. Tel. 0181 530 5205

Seasoned travellers know all about the roll-up, non-crush dresses created in Hong Kong by Diane Freis. Hers are the frothy frocks that are collages of colour and print, often with an off-the-shoulder neckline and an easy drift of a skirt on a comfortable elasticized waistband, trimmed with beads, tassels and a ruffle or two, that spring unrumpled out of a travel bag. And they are the splashily-printed "special occasion" frocks that fall into pristine folds however long they have been worn sitting in a traffic jam en route to Ascot or a summer wedding.

A California, Miss Freis now runs her fashion group — with its turnover

of more than \$30 million — from headquarters in Kowloon, with her British husband, Richard Bradley, a former Hong Kong police officer.

She is currently in Britain, meeting fans at a series of fashion shows co-hosted by *Vogue* magazine, with a Freis dress — worth around £285 — to be won at each. Tomorrow, she is at Harrods (shows: 11.30am, 2pm and 4pm); April 27, Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester (2.30pm in aid of Birthright); May 3, Simpson, Piccadilly (11.30am, 1.30pm and 4pm); May 8, Dickens & Jones, London W1 (12noon, 2pm and 4pm); May 17, Selfridges, W1 (11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm).

Scenting profits

British men currently splash out £200 million a year on aftershave and cologne, with Aramis, Dunhill, Ralph Lauren's Polo, Saint Laurent's Jazz, and Paco Rabanne the top sellers. As the market for men's fragrances grows (at a rate of 30 per cent a year it outpaced the 10 per cent upturn in sales of perfume for women), the big names are jostling for more of this booming market.

New West, an invigorating range from Aramis in Pacific blue and yellow packaging that includes Skinscent and cooling Glacial Gel, was originally targeted at the young, fitness-conscious Californian customer. It was taken across to the East coast of the US last month, and was launched in London at the weekend with some exuberant roller-skating and skateboarding tolerated temporarily in Oxford Street. Exclusive to Selfridges, New West costs from £9 for the Desert Sage shampoo up to £30 for a chunky, 100ml Skinscent spray.

Labels for sale

The tradition for shopping in discount warehouses is so well established in the US that a special Manhattan directory gives regular updates on news of out-of-town sales. London shoppers are almost as enthusiastic. Andrea von Tieffenbach Schmid and partners Stephen Ponte and Paul Fuller are the trio behind the Designers Sale Studio which opened in the King's Road in 1988, selling upmarket Italian and French labels with discounts of 50 and 70 per cent off the normal retail price. Now plans are progressing for Designers Sale Studios in Manchester and Glasgow, and a second branch opens in London next week.

The sale stock, gleaned from cancelled orders and factory surplus, may date from a season or two back, but it includes such undressing labels as Genny, Byblos, Krizia, Scherzer, Lotta Lengnick and Gianni Versace. Designers Sale Studio is at 241 Kings Road, SW3 and (from May 3) 78 St John's Wood High Street, NW8.



Above: Heraldic "Attributes" blue and cream printed silk shirt, £238, English Eccentrics from Liberty, Regent Street, W1; Ebony, 45 South Molton Street, W1; A La Mode, 36 Hans Crescent, SW1; Joseph, 77 Fulham Road, SW3. Blue cotton leggings, £99, Marion Foale, 13-14 Hinde Street, W1; Whistles branches

Centre: Daisy printed viscose shirt, £144, Betty Jackson from Selfridges, W1; The Beauchamp Place Shop, SW3; Regatta, 31 Carlton Place, Southampton; Felice, 6 Friar Street, Worcester; Crackers, 37-39 Morgan Arcade, Cardiff.

Black and white linen dressing trousers, £65, Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1; High Street, Oxford; 15 Princess Square, Glasgow and branches. White linen hat, £97.50, Ally Capellino, 95 Wardour Street, W1.

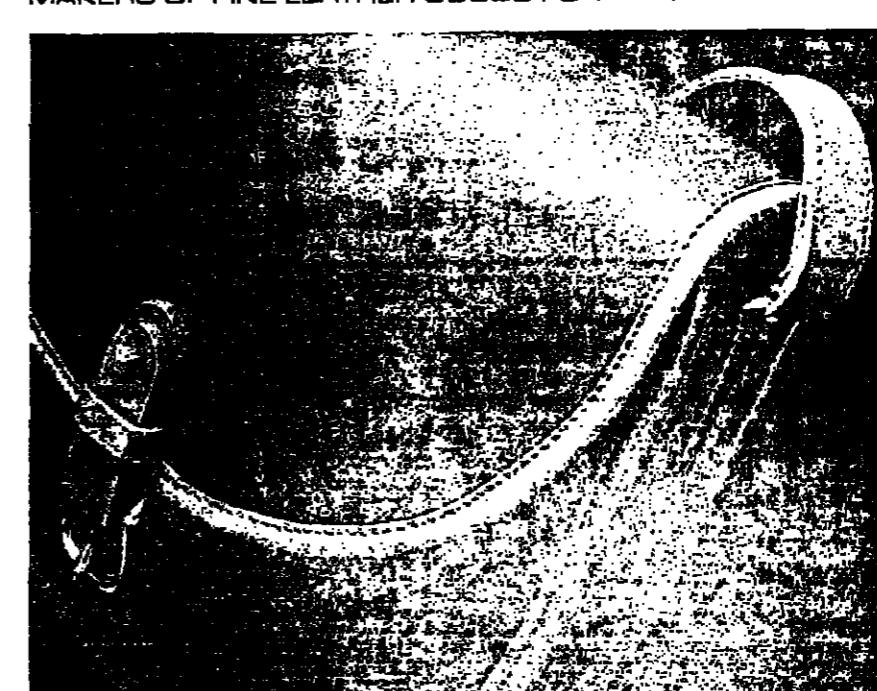
Left: Medallion and chain printed yellow silk shirt, £14.99, Hermès, Oxford Street, W1 and branches. Cut-off white jeans, £23.99, Saspaliza, Top Shop, Oxford Circus, W1 and branches; John Lewis, Oxford Street, W1 and branches; Stirling Cooper, The Trocadero, W1 and branches; Snob, The Arndale Centre, Manchester and branches.

Bronze chain necklace, £24.99, Next branches. Make-up by Helen Jeffers Hair by Ayo for Dobson & Davison. Photographs by ANTHONY CRICKMAY



COACH

MAKERS OF FINE LEATHER GOODS FOR MEN AND WOMEN.



RIDING BAG SPECTATOR STYLE 6750

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London SW1

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E130

BUSINESS

TUESDAY APRIL 24 1990

SECTION 2

City Editor
John Bell

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6360 (+0.0010)
W German mark 2.7763 (+0.0147)
Exchange index 87.4 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1692.7 (-19.9)
FT SE 100 2159.2 (-27.9)
USM (Datstream) 136.66 (-1.10)
Market report, page 30

Genbel stake up

GENBEL Investments, a South African investment trust group, has spent \$51.62 million in acquiring an additional 6.3 per cent stake in TransAtlantic Holdings to lift its overall interest in Trans-Atlantic to 14.6 per cent.

Hunting up

Hunting reported pre-tax profits of £48.4 million for 1989, against a pro-forma £34 million, and is paying a final dividend of 5.5p on July 3 making 9p.

Temps, page 26

Farnell ahead

Farnell Electronics unveiled pre-tax profits of £30.6 million for the year to end-January against £27.1 million. The final dividend is 2.7p, making 4.8p (4.2p).

Temps, page 26

£25.5m site

Camford Engineering, fighting a £64 million hostile bid from Markeaton Securities, claimed that its Stevenage site was worth £25.5 million.

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2685.32 (-30.09)
Tokyo: Nikkei Average 29579.07 (-158.37)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 30526.10 (-10.44)
Singapore: Straits Times 117.04 (-2.22)
Sydney: ASX 1483.4 (-0.82)
Frankfurt: DAX 1827.00 (-0.50)
Brisbane: General 6128.95 (-0.55)
Paris: CAC 557.11 (-6.68)
Stockex: SKA Gen - Closed

FT-A All-Share 1074.10 (-12.21)
FT-SE 500 1731.51 (-12.26)
FT: Gold Mines 245.2 (-2.7)
FT: Fixed Interest 84.89 (-0.64)
FT: Govt Secs 75.34 (-0.24)

Recent issues Closing prices

Page 30

Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES: Aquascutum 'A' 200p (+57p)
DAKS Simpson 'A' 4325p (+10p)
Liberty 455p (+20p)

FALLS: Watmough 520p (-50p)
West West 3125p (-250p)
Hammerson 'A' 519p (-25p)

MAM 535p (-20p)

Priest Mansions 220p (-30p)

Terme 2265p (-15p)

Argosy Corp 587.1 (-40p)

FM Douglas 290.1 (-15p)

Unilever 525p (-10p)

Erskine House 925p (-10p)

Orland 870p (-50p)

Cable & Wireless 4945p (-11p)

Anglo Group 2125p (-15p)

SEAG Volume 7035p (-15p)

Closing prices

Samuel 2023p

SEAG Volume 362.8m

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 15.5% (-5.4%)
6-month interbank 14.5% (-4.2%)
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 9.5%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.23-7.71%
30-year bonds 85.4-85.5%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
\$ 51.2890 E 51.23350
DM 2.7763 S 2.71.6975/
SF 2.4417 S 2.591.4935/
FFP 2.3185 S 2.455.9850/
C 10257.91 E 10157.91/
ECU 50.797985 SDR 20.793842/
E 50.135612 S 2.593988

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM 5375.65 pm 5375.25
close 5375.75-576.25 (2227.75-
2322.25)
New York
Comex 5376.10-576.80*

NORTH SEA OIL

Front (Jun.) ... \$17.55 bbl (\$17.05)
Doubled latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	Bank	Stock
E 51.2890	E 51.23350	51.15
DM 2.7763	S 2.71.6975/	2.75
SF 2.4417	S 2.591.4935/	2.45
FFP 2.3185	S 2.455.9850/	2.32
C 10257.91	E 10157.91/	10.25
ECU 50.797985	SDR 20.793842/	50.80
E 50.135612	S 2.593988	50.80

Forces: Bank of England figures were above the £3.4 billion rise expected in the City and well ahead of the £7.3 billion rise in February.

The jump in lending shown in Bank of England figures was the £3.4 billion rise expected in the City and well ahead of the £7.3 billion rise in February.

MO, the narrow money supply measure, showed growth slowing to an annual 6.3 per cent after seasonal adjustment, from 6.4 per cent.

But Mr Ian Harnett, chief economist at Strauss Turner, saw the annualized three-month and six-month comparisons providing a more favourable picture, indicating little MO growth.

The provisional data showed M4, the broad money measure, growing at its slowest annualized rate since November.

While consumers appear to have made the switch to less borrowing, clearing bank figures confirmed that the corporate sector still needs to adjust to the counter-inflationary squeeze.

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

GLOBE, Britain's biggest investment trust, has decided to refer to the Stock Exchange any decision on whether British Coal pension funds acted as an insider when they launched their £1.03 billion bid last week.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the Coal Board's broker, has published a strong denial that it acted improperly in buying the stake. "The suggestion is without foundation," said Mr Malcolm le May, a BW director. "The funds took great care to ensure both the letter and the spirit of the rules were fully complied with."

"Nothing said at the meeting with Mr Hardy influenced the

pass what he believes was inside information to Dr Paul Whitney, the head of investment at the Coal Board. It was after the meeting that the Coal Board bought the stake, which took its holding above 30 per cent and triggered a full bid under the Takeover Code.

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"Nothing said at the meeting with Mr Hardy influenced the

funds' decision to purchase or, we were assured, the vendors' decision to sell. If this issue is still of concern, Globe should make the information available to all its shareholders."

Sources said Mr Hardy asked only on Thursday morning to see Dr Whitney, although most investment briefings are scheduled weeks in advance. At the 3pm meeting, the two discussed the trust's performance for the year to end March.

Globe has threatened the Coal Board with an injunction if it tries to publish details of the meeting. One of the subjects brought up, however, is thought to have been a dividend forecast.

Mr Hardy said the meeting was

routine. "In this world you see people when you can get them." He said it had to be scheduled between Standard and the Coal Board's management meeting last Wednesday, and the full board meeting tomorrow.

He denied the meeting was an attempt to make the Coal Board an insider in a last-minute effort to prevent a bid. "I had no idea they were going to bid. I dreamed that night they had sold the stake to a European bank."

The Coal Board did not mention any intention to bid at the meeting, and said it was a seller of UK equities.

At 5.10pm, more than an hour after Mr Hardy had left, Dr Whitney was told that Standard

Life was now prepared to sell for 191p a share, or £51.1 million. BW, the Coal Board's broker, and Standard had been negotiating for more than two weeks.

Dr Whitney then contacted Mr Hardy and warned him that there might be an announcement later.

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might be an announcement later.

By 6.45, Mr Hardy rang back to suggest he had made Dr Whitney an insider.

This made the Coal Board contact its advisers, including Freshfields, the solicitor.

It decided the meeting had not

contained inside information and

told Standard its contents, after

which the life assurer still agreed to

sell.

The deal was finally struck at

Goldsmit's struggle for BAT dropped

By Stephen Leather

ed. at Hoylake's withdrawal. From the very beginning, the bid was extremely complex. I was confident that the excellent results we produced for 1989 would gain the support of our shareholders."

He added that the decision to accelerate the withdrawal from retailing and the plans to spin off BAT's Wiggins-Teape Appleton paper business created further difficulties for Hoylake. He was confident shareholders would continue to benefit from BAT's current strategies, including the decision to move to a higher level of dividend payout.

Sir James had joined forces with Jacob (now Lord) Rothschild, the financier, and Mr Kerry Packer, the Australian businessman, to launch Britain's biggest takeover bid last July, financed by US-style junk bonds.

When he announced his bid and his harsh criticisms of

Eurotunnel lifts cost to £7.5bn

By Graham Seargent
Financial Editor

EUROTUNNEL has again raised its estimate of the final cost of building the Channel tunnel.

It is spending an extra £500 million, mainly on more men and machinery to speed up tunnelling, in an effort to open on time in June 1993.

The latest cost figure of between £7.5 billion and £7.6 billion is £500 million more than the last formal estimate in October, and compares with informal indications from the Anglo-French company earlier this year that the cost would be £7.2 billion.

Progress on tunnelling has, however, improved sharply, particularly on the longer British side and by last Saturday, 75.7 kilometers, half the required length of tunnels, had been bored and lined.

To account for the latest cost escalation, Eurotunnel now plans to raise between £2 billion and £2.5 billion of new finance this year, which is at the top end of estimates.

This would bring total finance available to between £3 billion and £3.5 billion. But Mr Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's chief executive, said this was most that the company expected to need. "We do not intend to go through this process again," he said.

The new finance will include a rights issue of between £400 million and £500 million to shareholders, probably in November, when the French and British service tunnels are scheduled to be on the point of meeting.

Higher cost estimates include £175 million for the extra financing, because the lead banks for Eurotunnel's 200-strong banking syndicate have made it clear that they expect a higher interest rate margin than the 1.25 per cent over interbank rate charged on most existing agreed borrowings.

These extra financing costs will eat up cost savings that

will emerge from the joint Eurotunnel/Transmanche Link taskforce.

Mr Morton said there was a much higher level of mutual confidence between Eurotunnel and its bankers than a few months ago and also between Eurotunnel and TML, the construction consortium that has a turnkey contract to build the project.

He said the main outstanding difference with TML was over the cost of lump-sum works, mainly at the terminals. New figures show a difference of more than £700 million at 1985 prices between Eurotunnel's estimates and what it thinks TML has in mind. The total cost estimate includes Eurotunnel's un-

project to £2 billion, half financed by bank loans at an average interest rate of 9.5 per cent. But the average cost of money will rise in future

Final detailed cost estimates, along with new revenue estimates, will be given to banks and shareholders in early June, with a view to agreeing fresh loan finance over the summer.

After an initial fall, Eurotunnel shares gained 5p to 578p, partly on interest from France, which now accounts for more than 80 per cent of shareholdings, although British and French interests each still own about 45 per cent of Eurotunnel's capital.

During 1989, Eurotunnel doubled its investment in the

Comment, page 27

John Major might take a year to cut mortgage rates.

John Charcol can do it in a week.

**13.75%
(14.8%)**

Typical APR

competitive interest rate: but if, as some people expect, rates start to fall next year, you get the benefit of switching into a variable rate as well.

In short, it's a mortgage that's ideal whether you're moving house, or simply wanting to cut your current payments.

(Especially, of course, if you're one of those people with an ever-so-slightly cynical attitude towards the things that Chancellors tend to do in the run-up to general elections

TEMPUS

Hunting still looking for friends

HUNTING shareholders must be feeling as if they are stuck in Hampton Court Maze. They know there is a way to the centre, where the rewards of achievement rest. They know, too, that there is a way out. The problem is getting there.

The group, under managing director Ken Miller, shuffled its corporate pack yet again in 1989, with the hope of being better loved by the market.

But although 1989 pre-tax profits at £48.4 million beat the forecast of £46.6 million and compare with a pro forma £34 million, the warning about static earnings this year, and the possibility of a 1992 earnings decline, must leave the shares friendless.

The uncertainty, which Hunting cannot dispel and which for security reasons it will not spell out, is the importance to profits down the years from sales of the JP233 weapon system.

Defence at £25.7 million (£18.3 million) accounted for 53 per cent of 1989 pre-tax profit, and JP233 made up the largest slice of that. However, this contract runs by end-1990 and though Hunting has development plans in mind to make up for the gap, the proof of its efforts will be evident later rather than sooner.

Meanwhile, Hunting did well out of diverse "other activities" in 1989, which contributed £5.3 million to pre-

tax, and plans a host of disposals on which — should net worth be realized — an estimated £1 million might flow.

Outside of defence, group interests take in aviation, oil and technology. Gearing is 54 per cent, and will fall on asset sales, while the share's performance relative to the market has not been inspiring.

Pedestrian profits growth to £49 million this year and uncertainty over 1991's outcome do not make the shares a bargain — even at 187p (12 month high: 305p), and on a prospective p/e of 6.

Ratners

SEEING is not always believing. Gerald Ratner and his team at Ratners, the jewellery group, have presented shareholders with five uninterrupted years of strong earnings growth; profits have risen from £4.4 million to £12.1 million in that period and are credited with changing the face of the British jewellery market. But the group's shares have not responded accordingly.

Yesterday, Ratners did it again. Pre-tax profits for the year to February were up 41 per cent at £12.1 million on sales up 41 per cent at £89.1 million, earnings per share grew 14 per cent to 30.2p and the dividend rises 27 per cent to 9.5p. Even after stripping out the £13.3 million of



Static earnings warning: Ken Miller, of Hunting

property profits, the figures were better than some expectations. But the shares, up 1p to 227p, are on a p/e ratio of 7.5 — low for one of the few growth stories in the sector.

Mr Ratner's problem is that the City does not believe he can go on defying gravity. Like-for-like sales growth at the four main British chains, H Samuel, Ratners, Zales and

Watches of Switzerland was about 20 per cent last year, a rate which has continued in the current year. But there will be no British acquisitions, and few new shops. Many of Ratners' customers will be hit by their first community charge and the fashion in jewellery appears to be moving away from the fine gold items which Ratners sells. The

decade of conspicuous consumption, we are told, is over.

Devotees of Ratners would point to Department of Trade and Industry figures which show the British jewellery market growing by 18 per cent this year. The balance sheet is strong, with gearing of only 34 per cent. The US, which contributes 30 per cent of Ratners' profits, is performing well and is set to grow further.

No-one can accuse Mr Ratner of complacency. He is not just pitching himself against other jewellery groups, but targeting perfume, cosmetics and electrical retailers. Shoppers may be spending less, but he is doing his utmost to make sure that when they buy gifts they buy jewellery.

The shares are lowly rated, but do not look set for a re-rating, with the City continuing to worry about growth prospects and the sector as a whole in the doldrums. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits between £12.5 million and £140 million this year.

Farnell

FARNELL Electronics is one of those companies which refuses to believe talk of an economic recession, while giving the impression that it would not mind if it found itself in the middle of one. Its sophisticated pricing policy is so structured that a slowdown in business, which

it will admit to experiencing at present, is fully compensated by the bigger margins it derives from smaller, more frequent orders.

Margin is the key word at Farnell, whose electronic component distribution operations, responsible for two-thirds of group profits, wrung a magnificent 26 per cent out of turnover a year ago, and then improved on it last year.

Farnell is also beginning to answer critics who complained that the recent acquisition programme was eating into the return on capital employed. Last year's three purchases have all been hauled into the black, and the start-up in Australia is now

on track to meet its profit target.

The final dividend has been slashed from 1.0p to 0.1p, the same as the interim, leaving the total down from 1.7p to 0.2p.

Trading in the first quarter of the current year has remained at a subdued level and the company said that it was difficult to see the economic climate in Britain changing in the rest of the year, while interest rates remained high.

MTM buys \$8m firms

MTM, the Teesside chemicals group, has made \$3 million worth of US acquisitions. Two companies, Fairfield Chemicals of South Carolina and Monomerpolymer and Dajac Laboratories of Pennsylvania, have been acquired and a conditional agreement has been reached to acquire Aetco's Pfaltz and Bauer research business.

With an Eastern Europe hungry for electronic components beckoning, Farnell will persevere in Germany, even though it will restrain profits slightly this year. Analysts look for £33 million pretax for the current year against the £30.6 million reported yesterday, putting the shares on a p/e of 9.7 at 162p. Given the defensive qualities, they are not expensive.

However, the new venture in Germany will not make money this year. Establishing 27,000-line distribution networks such as Farnell runs in Britain does not come cheaply, in money or time, which is why Farnell makes the margins it does.

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ALAN Paul, the USM quoted hair and beauty group, is buying Esselle Holdings, which operates hair and beauty salons in British and German department stores, for £8.45 million. The group is paying for the acquisition with the issue of 6.15 million shares at 130p, of which the vendors will keep 2.6 million, and through the placing of 3.8 million shares by the vendors, which will raise £9.75 million. A rights issue of 3.7 million shares will raise £4.8 million.

Alan Paul estimates profits for the year to March 1990 at £1.2 million (£742,000). A second interim dividend of 2.1p will be paid in June. The shares fell 7p to 138p.

Runciman bidder claim

SHARES in Water Runciman, the shipping group fighting a £63 million bid from the Swedish Avena group, slipped 5p to 700p despite a claim from Runciman of another third party bidder waiting in the wings. Avena's offer values Runciman at 600p a share. Runciman said that talks with a previous third party bidder had failed through.

£8.45m hair-care buy

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E & G brings in receivers

EQUITY & General has called in receivers to its motor distribution division less than a week after its asset leasing business was declared insolvent.

Despite a 19 per cent increase in rental income to £6.10 million, a 74 per cent climb in the interest charge to £4.4 million and a £370,000 fall in trading profit to £3.61 million took their toll. The dividend is believed to have been maintained at 1.08p.

Private housing hit

CONSTRUCTION output is forecast to drop 6 per cent this year, with private housing output worst hit at 19 per cent down, according to the National Council of Building Material Producers (BMP). Output is not expected to start recovering until 1992. The likely 1991 decline is put at 0.5 per cent.

An anticipated easing in bank interest rates next year could rekindle the private housing market. This sector should rise 9 per cent next year. Industrial building is expected to fall back 10 per cent this year with a 5 per cent improvement next year.

Power of Ireland up by 60% to £10m

By Jeremy Andrews
POWER Corporation, the largest property company in the Irish Republic, has turned in profits of £10.3 million (£10 million) for the year to December, a rise of 60 per cent on the 1988 figure and in line with the forecast of "not less than £6.10 million" made five months ago when the company launched its deeply discounted two-for-five rights issue to raise £40.6 million.

Following the rights issue, Power also became the eighth largest quoted company in Ireland in terms of market capitalization as well as ranking 17th among the property companies on the London Stock Exchange.

It was an active year for Power. It bought shops in Kensington High Street, West London, for £14 million, the Rhinelander Mansion in Madison Avenue, New York, for \$43 million, partly financed by a £6.21 million rights issue in February 1989. Nevertheless, earnings per share rose by a fifth to 161p.

A property valuation led to a rise in net assets per share from 16.5p to 16.24p, though the Tower Centre in Blackpool and the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles were not revalued and included instead at cost.

Power bought the 23.5-acre Ambassador site last September for \$64 million in partnership with Brent Walker, Amex and Mr Scott Malick, a US property developer, though in January this year a 20 per cent stake in the project was sold to Mr Donald Trump, the New York property magnate.

The final dividend is to rise by 16.2p to 16.6p.

GrandMet dilutes Courage pub deal

By Our City Staff
GRANDMETROPOLITAN and Courage have weakened the potential tie between their breweries and pubs in a last-minute effort to get the proposed £2.800 million link-up past the Office of Fair Trading and the European Commission.

An announcement on whether the pub/brewery asset swap, which would create the largest pub-owning group in Britain in the shape of Innterpreneur, will be allowed by London and Brussels is expected either this week or next.

Mr Alan Sheppard, the chairman and chief executive of Grand Metropolitan, explained to shareholders at a special meeting yesterday that the terms of the deal had been altered to allow for the decreasing influence of the tie between brewers and pubs throughout the course of the next decade.

Originally, the agreement for Courage to supply Grand Metropolitan's 8,500 pubs was for 16 years and renewable thereafter.

This has been modified to five years and a reduction in the right of Courage to supply Innterpreneur by 10 per cent a year to the end of the 10 years, with Grand Metropolitan having the right to choose which beers replace Courage's.

Grand Metropolitan investors voted overwhelmingly in favour of the deal. Proxy votes received by GrandMet in advance of the meeting are believed to have been 99 per cent behind the move.

COMPANY BRIEFS

HUNLEIGH (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.9m (£0.64m)
EPS: 7.10p (5.23p)
Div: 2p (1p)

CCS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.17m (£0.14m)
EPS: 1.18p (0.92p)
Div: 0.55p (nil)

KINGSTON OIL (Fin)
Pre-tax: \$1.15m (\$1.33m)
EPS: 11.31c (7.07c)
Div: 2.6592c (nil)

S LYLES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.30m (£0.49m)
EPS: 2.51p (1.48p)
Div: 1.5p (1.4p)

JONES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.55m (£0.2m)
EPS: 35.9p (33.3p)
Div: 8p (7p)

Encouraging start to current year
Development of new export markets being concentrated in Eastern Europe especially East Germany

Results reflect only one month of the G Blagg acquisition, larger to date. Last year, Blagg would have doubled the CCS pre-tax figure.

After concentrating on acquiring production over past two years, company now intends to start a more active drilling programme.

Company expects satisfactory outcomes for second half of the year. Sales are set for higher than in the first half.

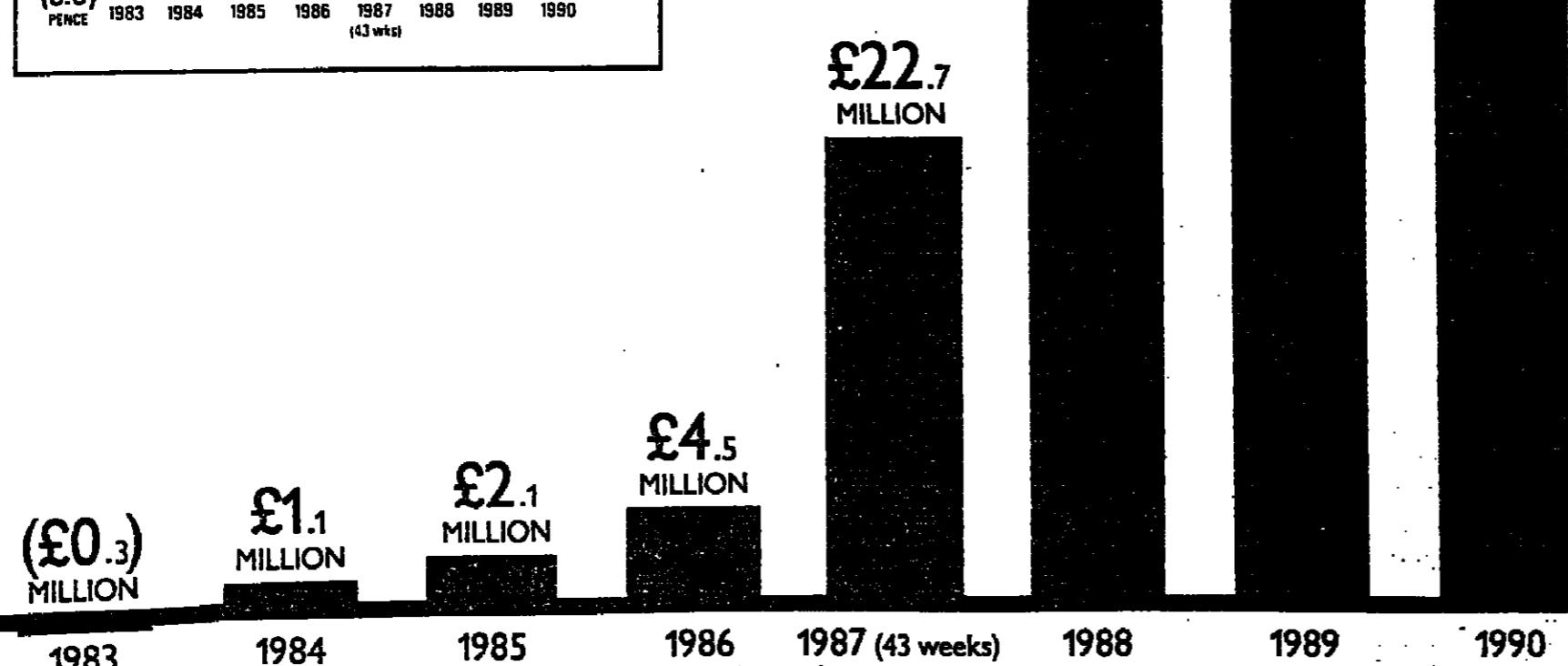
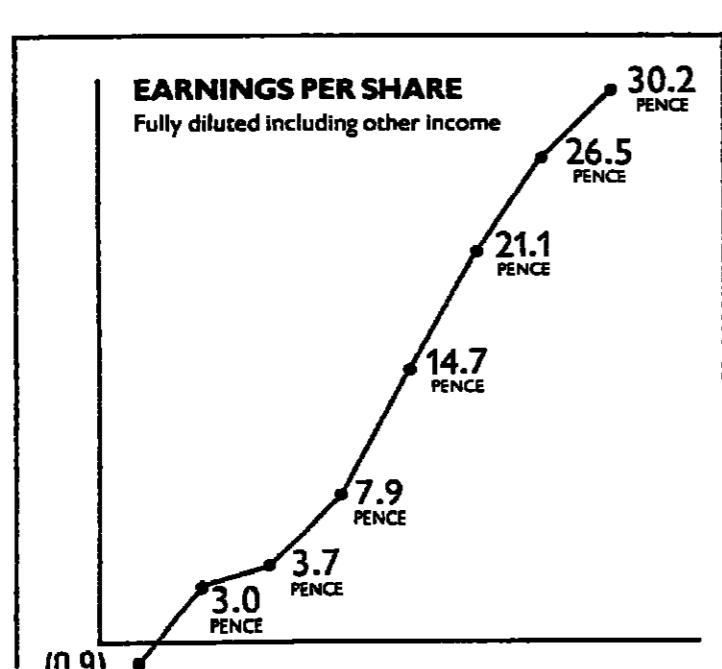
Company expects a rise in engineering and environmental businesses for the current year leading to higher profits.

RATNERS

RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

1989/90 HIGHLIGHTS

- Pre-tax profits advance to £121.5 million.
- Earnings per share up 14%.
- Dividend up 27%.
- Strong sales growth in current year.



For more information please write to The Company Secretary, Ratners Group plc, 15 Stratton Street, London W1X 5FD.

The contents of this statement have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock which is authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

Ratners strikes gold as profits surge to £121m

By Gillian Bowditch

RATNERS sold 27 tons of nine-carat gold last year — enough to build three gold double-deck buses.

The group, which owns H Samuel Zales and Watches of Switzerland, as well as the Ratner's shops, now sells four out of every 10 watches purchased in Britain, one out of every four pairs of earrings and one in every six diamond rings.

This domination of the British Jewellery market means that Ratner's market share rose from 25 per cent to 31 per cent last year.

Pre-tax profits for the year to February rose 41 per cent to £121.5 million, on sales up 41 per cent at £898.1 million. Property profits rose from £4.99 million to £13.3 million and earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 30.2p. Currency movements added £2 million to profits.

The final dividend is 7.5p, making 9.5p for the year, an increase of 27 per cent.

Operating profits in Britain rose from £66.4 million to £91.1 million and in the US profits rose from £25.8 million to £38.4 million, which analysts say, makes the group the most profitable British retailer operating in America.

The only dull spot in the results was Salisbury, the bag and costume jewellery chain bought from Next.

It contributed £4 million to operating profits and like-for-

like sales growth was 8 per cent last year, but that has increased to 15 per cent so far in the current year. Ratner's, which looked at Dixons during the Christmas period, has given up plans to diversify out of jewellery.

Margins overall are down slightly at 14.4 per cent. Mr Gerald Ratner, the group's chairman and managing director, said the retail environment as a whole is tougher than it has been.

"We are not entirely bullet-proof but we are not just going to stand around and get shot. We intend to fight for every penny out there," he said.

According to Department of Trade and Industry figures, jewellery continues to be the strongest area within the retail sector and so far this year it has grown by 18 per cent.

Mr Ratner said jewellery is holding up much better in the current consumer downturn than it has in the past.

The group is developing new products with suppliers and using the latest technology to cut costs.

Mr Ratner said: "We have experienced an excellent start to the current financial year.

"This has given us a sound platform from which to approach the important 1990 Christmas season with confidence." The shares rose 1p to 22.7p.

Temps, page 26



Gerald Ratner: 'we intend to fight for every penny'

Snooker clubs may be sold

By Michael Tate

MIDSUMMER Leisure is considering selling its Riley snooker table manufacturing business and some of its Riley clubs to reduce its £42.7 million bank borrowings.

The board, which is fighting an £86 million takeover bid from European Leisure, said that while Midsomer Leisure's borrowing position and interest cover were "manageable within the context of the company's current trading position and prospects," the overall business would be further strengthened by the disposals of the Riley manufacturing operations and "a number of lower-yielding assets."

A spokesman confirmed that the group was actively reviewing its 59 Riley snooker clubs, as well as other lower yielding businesses.

Earlier, European Leisure declared its offer was final and said that it would not be increased in any circumstances.

In a letter to Midsomer Leisure shareholders, Mr Michael Ward, European Leisure's chairman and chief executive, said that the rejection of the bid by the Midsomer Leisure board, after originally recommending it, was "unconvincing."

European Leisure again advised shareholders to reject the offer, noting that the current value of the offer remained substantially below the level of 175p per Midsomer Leisure share originally announced on April 2.

Society loans up but receipts fall

By Lindsey Cook, Family Money Editor

BUILDING societies increased their share of the mortgage market during March when their lending rose almost £1 billion to £4 billion but receipts from savers fell to £363 million.

The net receipts for the first quarter of 1990 at £1.12 billion were less than half the £2.66 billion for the first quarter of last year. This reflects the increased competition from banks for savers' money and the implementation of independent taxation.

Since April 6, non-working households have been better off with accounts which pay interest gross or on which the tax can be reclaimed, such as offshore bank accounts or cash unit trusts. The offshore subsidiaries of building societies are not counted in the retail receipts. Building soci-

eies improved their savings rates at the beginning of March to stop funds being transferred to the banks which attracted 49 per cent of net savings receipts last year.

Mr Mark Boate, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said: "While net receipts figures in the first quarter are considerably lower than in the first quarter of 1989 they have improved since the final quarter of 1989. The recent increase in societies' savings rates should add momentum to this trend."

He predicted that mortgage advances may fall in the current quarter. "Advances made in the first quarter reflect agreements to lend made in December and January — before the increase in mortgage rates announced in the middle of February."

Travis Perkins down 16%

By Jeremy Andrews

THE additional buying power from the merger of the Travis & Arnold and Sandell Perkins chains added a half percentage point to gross margins last year at Travis Perkins, the builders' merchant.

But that was wiped out by a 5 per cent sales fall to £361 million, leaving pre-tax profits 16 per cent lower at £32.8 million in the year to December.

Trading conditions worsened as the year progressed, especially in the Midlands. Virtually all the sales decline

came in the second half and the workforce was trimmed by a tenth to 4,000.

Integration of the two chains progressed smoothly as there was limited overlap — Travis & Arnold having been stronger in the Midlands and in plumbing and heating materials, with Sandell Perkins more concentrated in the South-east and focused on timber and joinery. The £7 million provision to re-organize costs is likely to be sufficient, said Mr Tim Perkins, the deputy chairman. Gains from property dis-

posals, taken above the line, rose from £2.39 million to £3.74 million.

Earnings per share dropped by 4p to 22p, but the final dividend is to rise by 0.5p to 5.5p. That makes the total 8p, which the company said was comparable to the 7.5p which would have been paid in 1988 had the two companies been merged for a full year.

Mr Perkins said that sales volume fell further in the first quarter of this year and profits for 1990 as a whole were likely to be down.

The shares fell 2p to 17.1p.

P&D pulls them in

DESPITE the difficult market, UBS Phillips & Drew is recruiting new people on an almost daily basis. The latest additions to the list are no less than five senior corporate finance executives — all described as "heavyweights" — whose identities were revealed yesterday. Joining its UK corporate finance department, as deputy managing directors, are a trio comprising Michael Stalibra, who was the executive director in charge of mergers and acquisitions at Shearson Lehman Hutton, Gareth Bullock, from Swiss Bank Corp, where he was responsible for UK marketing, and Christopher Kirkness, from Kleinwort Benson, who has spent the past four years working from its New York office. Meanwhile, not to be outdone, its international corporate finance department, run by managing director Markus Rohrbasser, has two new recruits — Pascal Jaubert from Credit Suisse First Boston, who will head up Phillip & Drew's French investment banking team, and Mark Eber, previously with Citicorp Investment Bank, who will become a director of the firm's cross-border mergers and acquisitions group. "They bring with them a wide range of skills, experience and contacts and are joining at a time when the firm's corporate finance client list and business, both UK and international, are growing encouragingly," says Stephen Brisby, vice chairman of UBS Phillips & Drew.

Llamas tidings of joy

THE vast army of ex-Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers employees — who either resigned voluntarily or found themselves unemployed when the firm pulled out of the UK equity market at the turn of the year — are somewhat bemused after receiving a letter from their erstwhile employer, or rather senior human resources officer Margaret Llamas, who works for its parent, Citicorp Investment Bank. For it in Llamas asks them — as former Citicorp officers — to spare up to 45 minutes to be interviewed over the telephone by a member of her department. They are, she explains, undertaking a confidential study "designed to collect the thoughts and views of senior level professionals who have left Citicorp. The results will, hopefully, help Citicorp do a better job of integrating and retaining professionals such as yourself ... to learn about each participant's Citicorp experience.... This research will prove valuable in our continuing efforts to attract, select and retain the best professional hires." Candour would, she added, be encouraged. In that, at least, she will not, methinks, be disappointed. "I thought it was a wind-up at first," admitted one recipient. "They must come from Mars," said another. "It just highlights the insensitivity of the bank and the reason why they failed." Other reactions are unpredictable.

Down to earth at Ernst

DETERMINED to prove that his fellow accountants are not as boring as we all like to think, Brian Trainor, a senior expatriate adviser at Ernst & Young, has persuaded nine of his colleagues to throw themselves off the top of their firm's 120ft building in Lambeth Palace Road. They will, however, be attached to ropes and will be expected to abseil, to raise money for Telethon and Children in Crisis. "I took

up climbing nine months ago, but many of these people have never abseiled before," says Trainor, who will be leading the descent at 5.30pm today.

Encouraged by a jazz band, and free food for passers-by, Trainor adds: "I hope to change the image of accountants — I don't think they should be thought of as boring ... there are some quite interesting people in the accountancy profession."

Red roses

A BULK order for red roses was placed by the compliance department at Phillips & Drew, with each of that department's employees wear-

ing one of the flowers yesterday. But before marksmen interpret it as a sign of City support for the Labour Party, and mark stocks lower, the firm's managing director and group compliance officer, the larger-than-life John Woolfenden — once senior partner of the Liverpool gits' jobber Moulds — has asked me to point out that they were simply commemorating St George's Day. "In the days when there was a stock market floor, everyone used to wear them," he says. "And I wanted to maintain the tradition in my department, at least."

Muddling in

AN UNCERTAIN outlook looms for British Airways, it seems. The airline has appointed a new head of planning in its corporate strategy department — one Ronald Mudde.

Carol Leonard

B Gas to bring in pipeline cost cuts

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

BRITISH Gas, the world's biggest gas supplier, is cutting pipeline transportation costs by 20 to 40 per cent. The move signals a series of deals with third parties to use the pipes for selling gas direct to their own customers and could mean lower costs to industrial and commercial users.

Mr John Huggins, director of gas transportation services at British Gas, said: "There has to be more competition. We decided to bite the bullet."

British Gas wants to be able to strike deals with gas producers, allowing them to use its pipeline network without the mediation of the industry's regulatory watchdog, the Office of Gas Supply (Ofgas). British Gas hopes that by establishing competition it can persuade Ofgas to allow it more freedom in its pricing policies for industrial and commercial users. At present British Gas is required to publish price lists instead of individually struck bargains.

The cuts in transportation costs have already benefited Shell and Esso which have been the first to sign a gas transportation contract with British Gas. British Petroleum is also close to a deal.

Discussions are in progress with about 10 would-be users of the British Gas network, said Mr Huggins, director of gas transportation services at British Gas under pressure from Ofgas a cut in transportation costs was initially seen as a defensive move, but

Mr Huggins admitted that cutting transportation rates should not have any significant effect on British Gas profits in the "first year or so," said Mr Huggins, although the effect could grow over time.

Dealing in Anglia shares, which have slumped from 460p last year to 65p yesterday, have been suspended. Anglia reported net losses of £4.5 million for the year to September 1989.

Shares halted at Bestwood

BESTWOOD, the financial services and house-building company being investigated by the Department of Trade, has asked for its shares to be suspended.

The company's shares have fallen from a high of 60p last year to just 4½p. Bestwood came to prominence last year when Mr Tony Cole, the former chairman, unsuccessfully attempted to oust his successor.

He rejected the idea that earlier British Gas prices were too high or represented profiteering, and that they were in line with the requirements of the Gas Act. At one time British Gas would buy all gas, transport and sell it. Already with new fields, at least 10 per cent of production cannot be sold to British Gas. While retaining much of its role as a wholesaler, British Gas could vary its approach, offering either a transportation-only service or a pipeline building service for schemes where it would otherwise have no role.

COMMENT

How Goldsmith found himself unbundled out

Compared with the manner of his arrival on the BAT scene, Sir James Goldsmith's departure was a downbeat affair. Sir James, plus his partners Jacob (now Lord) Rothschild and Kerry Packer, staged a conference before the lights of the world's media which turned into a missionary presentation of the virtues of what was once known as asset stripping but for which Sir James coined the less emotive phrase of unbundling. His instincts in making the bid, which had led him to massive profits in similar operations in the US, were right in some respects but disastrously wrong in others.

Flaming June, when the UK inflation rate is expected to be well over 9 per cent, is the month when Pöhl is most likely to want to move. The trauma of hyperinflation still pervades German thinking.

Most economists are confident West Germany can handle inflationary and fiscal problems arising from GMU. Can Britain?

Tunnel's French asset

THE good news from under the English Channel is that the tunnel is now going well and Eurotunnel, TML and the bankers appear to be working together again after the crisis and changes in Eurotunnel's management. The bad news is that, with three years to go, the cost estimates still seem to be rising at £100 million a month.

Cost reviews are still going on and Clive Anderson of Kitcat & Aitken points out that the "real" estimates will not come until May-June, when Eurotunnel starts negotiating for up to £2 billion more from the banks. By then, £7.6 billion looks likely.

Richard Hannah of UBS Phillips & Drew calculates that, on the basis of 1989 traffic and revenue estimates, the return to shareholders over the life of the project has fallen to about 14 per cent, allowing for a smaller financial share for the equity and dilution from the rights issue. Even after the bad things have already happened, this is a modest return on a still risky project, especially as dividends have been put off from 1995 to nearer the end of the century.

The new cost estimates will be matched with new revenue forecasts. These will benefit from inflation as costs have suffered, but further traffic optimism may meet scepticism.

Persuading the banks to put up an extra £2 billion may not be difficult at a price, because they will have a lien on a very fine piece of infrastructure with £1.5 billion of equity to be wiped out before they need worry.

The greatest asset of the Eurotunnel board is the faith — even vision — of 435,000 French shareholders, half of whom have come on board since the November 1987 share issue. Not only do they provide a possible source of funds, which Messrs Benard and Morton would no doubt prefer to contractors' money. They are also keeping Eurotunnel shares up. Including warrants, the 1987 investors are showing a profit of almost 80 per cent. This may carry more weight than calculations of long-term return on a project whose economics remain conjecture and can still swing wildly in either direction.

BIRTHS

ANDREWS - On April 3rd at Bushey, to Diana and Ralph a Son, David Alexander.

BYPS - On April 24th at Comms '90, Birmingham, to Barclays, Philips and Shell a Rabbit.

EDEN - On April 5th at Worthing, to Charlotte and Terence a Daughter, happy to

Tel: 0223 467422

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CINCINNATI

ATLANTA



**JUST BECAUSE YOUR SEAT HAS A NUMBER
DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE ONE.**

'Use Passenger Names'

This reminder appears on almost every page of the Delta Air Lines Stewardess Training Manual.

We believe a cup of coffee leaves a nicer taste in your mouth when it's given to you by name.

It's just one of the personal touches we encourage from everyone at Delta, from the ground staff to the Captain in command of your flight.

Of course, caring and consideration can't be taught. It's something you either have or you haven't.

We think it helps that our home is Atlanta. People from the South tend to have a lot of outmoded ideas about service.

They haven't yet learnt how to fake a smile. They haven't cultivated the attitude that by serving you they're doing you a favour.

But don't take our word for it. Any airline can claim service. At Delta we have the facts to support it.

Delta has been number one in passenger satisfaction among major US airlines for the past 15 years.*

However, in-flight service and experience don't count for much if the plane isn't going where you want to be.

Delta has non-stop flights each day from London Gatwick to Cincinnati and Atlanta. Our US gateways are so convenient you literally fly through customs and immigration.

Now instead of treating you like a number, we're going to treat you to a number. See your Travel Agent or call Delta on 0800 414 767.



Guinness trial jury sent home over delay

THE Guinness trial judge apologized to jurors yesterday as he extended their Easter holiday because of technical difficulties.

The jury was sent home on its return from a 12-day break after Mr Justice Henry explained new evidence needed to be considered by counsel. He told jurors at Southwark Crown Court that there had been difficulties in obtaining a statement from an accountant, in time to be called on the 37th day of the trial.

He said the logical order of witnesses meant a delay was necessary and added that the case start was "unfortunate".

The next witnesses in the trial are from Price Waterhouse, the accountant.

It is alleged that they quoted £25 million of invoices, said to be part of an illegal share support operation.

The jury has heard that Mr Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, offered to explain the payments to the accountants, but the meeting never took place.

Mr Saunders, aged 54, Mr Gerald Rouson, aged 50, head of the Heron Corporation; Mr Anthony Parry, aged 44, a City stockbroker; and Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, the millionaire financier, variously deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting, and breaches of the Companies Act.

It is alleged the illicit share support campaign was mounted to ensure victory for the £2.7 billion Guinness bid for Distillers, the whisky group, over rival Angyll in 1986.

The Crown claims illegal indemnities and success fees were paid to investors recruited to support the Guinness cause.

The trial continues today.

Hammerson's 6% net asset value rise triggers price fall

By Matthew Bond

HAMMERSOM, the international property group, disappointed its followers with a 6 per cent increase in net asset value per share.

Only 15 months ago, the company had escaped the clutches of Rodamco, the Dutch group, with a 63 per cent increase in net assets to 1,058p a share. But 1989 saw that figure increase to just 1,118p a share, news that sent Hammerson's shares sharply into reverse.

Hammerson's A shares fell 23p to 720p, while ordinary shares fell 21p to 765p. At the time of the £1.6 billion bid, Standard Life, Hammerson's 28.8 per cent shareholder, increased its stake by paying up to 1,100p for ordinary shares.

Mr John Parry, Hammerson's managing director, was still in confident mood. He believes the company's revaluation more accurately reflected what was going on in the property market than some recently proffered by competitors.

Nor did he believe Standard Life's role as white knight had left it in an unduly influential position after the defeat of Rodamco's bid.

Hammerson's £2.5 billion

property portfolio spans Britain, the Continent, Canada, Australia and North America. The company does not break down how individual countries performed. "But growth in the United Kingdom was minimal," Mr Parry said, although rents grew strongly.

Rodamco continues to hold about 3 per cent in the company, but Mr Parry said there had been no contact with the group since the day it launched its bid.

With gearing unchanged at 38 per cent, Mr Parry is also considering a return to the British property market. He confirmed that Hammerson was one of a number of companies talking to Rosebagh about Sheenwater, its retail subsidiary. Hammerson already owns the Brent Cross centre, the north London shopping centre.

Pre-tax profits in the year to December rose marginally to £75.3 million, as finance and administration costs increased 37 per cent, eating into operating profits up 14 per cent at £60.7 million. Earnings per share fell 4 per cent to 30.3p a share. With a 15 per cent increase in dividend to 19.5p a share (17p), dividend cover is 1.5.



In a confident mood: John Parry, of Hammerson

Profits warning knocks PML shares

By Our City Staff

SHARES in PML, the USM-quoted clothing designer and importer, dived from 15p to 8p, valuing the group at just £3.5 million.

The plunge followed an announcement of delayed results, a profits warning and news of a passed final divi-

dend for 1989. PML, formerly the Paul Michael Leisurewear company, said that delays to the audit of overseas subsidiaries would mean the results for the year to December would be postponed for some weeks.

And when they come they will not be good: the group

said that they will be "significantly below market expectations."

In addition, market conditions in 1990 have deteriorated to the point where an operating loss has been clocked up for the first quarter of the current year.

There will be no dividend

for 1989, the company said, compared to the 1p a share paid out for 1988 and the 1.25p paid for 1987.

The shares hit a high of 74p in 1988.

At the half-year stage PML announced that profits were down from £853,000 to £665,000 before tax.

Japanese exodus tests US bonds

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

THE muddy outlook for US bond prices has been clouded further by hints that Japan's top life insurance companies may trim their purchases of US Treasury bonds in the next auction early next month.

That could increase the pressure on US interest rates and further rattle Wall Street.

Heavy selling of the bonds by Japanese investors — sales are estimated at \$6 billion over the past fortnight — has ended some of the floating in Wall Street that followed the recent stock market plunge in Tokyo.

Japanese investors traditionally take between one-quarter and one-third of the bonds offered at auction. But

many now feel that the soaring dollar is overvalued against the yen, creating a risk of foreign exchange losses on their US bond holdings if the dollar retreats.

Mr Takahide Sakurai, the chairman of the Life Insurance Association of Japan, says: "Given that US Treasury prices have become unstable, we have to be more cautious to some extent than in the past."

The sharp rise in the US budget deficit to a record \$53 billion, announced on Friday, further undermines the US bond market, because the US government will be forced to sell more bonds to balance its books.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (£)	Yearly change (£)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (US\$)	Yearly change (US\$)
The World (free)	704.7	-0.7	-16.4	-0.6	-12.5	-1.0	-15.3
EAFE (free)	134.8	-0.7	-16.5	-0.7	-12.6	-1.0	-15.4
Europe (free)	1231.9	-0.9	-21.0	-1.0	-16.0	-1.2	-19.8
Nth America (free)	1283.4	-0.9	-21.2	-1.1	-16.3	-1.2	-20.1
Nordic (free)	155.1	-1.7	-4.5	-1.6	-4.5	-2.1	-3.2
Pacific (free)	2373.7	-0.6	-3.4	-0.2	-3.1	-0.9	-2.1
Far East	401.6	-0.3	-30.7	-0.3	-23.4	-0.6	-29.7
Australia	293.1	-1.0	-13.9	-0.6	-9.9	-1.4	-12.7
Austria	2005.4	-3.4	-35.0	-2.8	-37.5	-3.8	-36.9
Belgium	910.7	-0.7	-7.5	-0.1	-7.4	-1.1	-8.2
Canada	495.8	-0.3	-17.3	-0.2	-15.9	-0.6	-16.1
Denmark	1330.7	-0.7	-1.1	0.0	-0.7	-1.0	-2.5
Finland	100.5	-0.7	-12.9	-0.4	-12.5	-1.0	-11.8
(free)	138.1	-0.9	-7.3	-0.6	-7.0	-1.2	-8.0
France	635.1	-1.8	-33	-1.2	-33	-2.2	-4.7
Germany	851.2	-3.4	-15	-2.7	-33	-3.7	-29
Hong Kong	2377.5	0.0	72	-0.4	85	-0.4	87
Italy	382.4	-2.0	-31.7	-0.8	-24.3	-0.8	-30.8
Japan	4210.5	-0.2	-31.7	-0.8	-24.3	-0.8	-30.8
Netherlands	882.1	-2.0	-67	-1.3	-53	-2.4	-54
New Zealand	88.1	0.6	-13.6	0.3	-10.6	0.3	-12.3
Norway	1505.6	-0.9	-12.2	-0.8	-13.2	-1.3	-13.8
(free)	262.7	-0.9	-13.5	-1.2	-14.1	-1.3	-13.0
Sing/Malay	1907.4	-1.0	-44	-1.2	-42	-1.3	-39
Spain	217.3	-0.1	-8.2	0.2	-8.9	-0.4	-8.9
Sweden	1834.7	-0.4	-8.8	-0.1	-6.3	-0.7	-5.5
(free)	233.1	-0.4	-3.7	-0.2	-3.2	-0.8	-2.3
Switzerland	860.4	-0.1	-5.9	0.0	-7.6	-0.5	-4.5
(free)	131.5	-0.1	-5.8	0.0	-7.5	-0.5	-4.5
UK	640.1	-1.3	-11.2	-1.3	-11.2	-1.7	-10.0
USA	450.8	-0.4	-6.7	-0.7	-5.4	-0.7	-5.4

(per £1) Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

The 152nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION will be held on TUESDAY, 22 MAY 1990 at 12 noon in the HEAD OFFICE, 6 ST ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from this address:

By order of the Board of Directors
G Henderson
Secretary

6 St Andrew Square
Edinburgh EH2 2YA
24 April 1990

THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 24 1990

Hambro Magan in link with US bank

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

JO HAMBRO Magan, the corporate finance boutique, has linked with the Blackstone Group, a New York-based merchant bank, to work on cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

The agreement will strengthen Magan's ability to carry out international deals. Last year, the firm advised on Ford's acquisition of Jaguar and Deutsche Bank's takeover of Morgan Grenfell.

Blackstone is a private firm, chaired by Mr Peter Peterson, the former chairman of Lehman Brothers. It has similar joint ventures with Nikko Securities in Japan, Groupe Suez in France and Toronto Dominion in Canada.

The first of these has allowed it to carry out the three largest US acquisitions by Japanese corporations.

It also advised on more than \$1 billion of US-French deals last year, including Compagnie des Machines, Bull's acquisition of Zenith's computer products division.

Mr George Magan, the managing director of Hambro Magan, said: "It is one thing to have this sort of agreement, it is another to follow it through. Very few firms in this business have a global presence, each market has its special ways. The way we want to do it is networking with firms that have a similar culture."

Magan and Blackstone are already working on three joint deals and are also looking at establishing a joint venture capital fund in Europe. In the future, Magan hopes to sign similar agreements in Europe and Japan.

Review threat to Citicorp's A-1 risk rating

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

AMERICA'S troubled commercial property market will be brought into sharp focus this week as Moody's Investors Service, the leading credit watch agency, begins considering whether to downgrade the risk rating of Citicorp, one of the top banks in the US.

The move sent shivers through the banking sector, and Citicorp's shares touched a year's low of \$224 in early trading on Monday, having fallen to within a dollar of the previous \$234 low on Friday.

In the first quarter, Citicorp's loans on which no interest was paid jumped 11 per cent to \$8.1 billion. Its reserves to absorb those losses remained at 61 per cent of the outstanding loans, below the 70 per cent level adopted by other banks.

American's top 10 banks have \$36 billion in outstanding loans on highly-leveraged buyouts, \$38 billion out to Third World countries and \$50 billion in commercial property loans.

Moody's said that it is concerned at the rising levels of Citicorp's bad debts in property, developing countries and highly-gearred corporations, as well as its capital adequacy.

The bank is involved in all three of the troubled sectors: it has \$13 billion worth of outstanding property loans, \$8.6 billion lent out to developing countries and \$7.9 billion lent to highly-gearred corporations.

Moody's review follows Citicorp's first-quarter profits, which fell 56.3 per cent to

SUN ALLIANCE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

1989 was a difficult year. There was sharper competition in the marketplace, particularly in the UK where high interest rates, which are the Government's main resource to fight the rapid rise in inflation, encouraged some underwriters to take on business at unrealistic rates. It was a year of natural disasters, with destructive hurricanes in the Caribbean and the south-eastern United States, and earthquakes in California and Australia. In all these calamities the Group bore its share of loss, but inevitably for our company nothing was more costly than the long hot summer in the UK which has so far produced some 7,800 claims for subsidence. Some of these arise only when houses change hands and prospective purchasers have a survey. Consequently we may expect further claims when the residential property market in due course revives.

In all these circumstances we regard the Group profit of £318m as satisfactory, particularly since this result does not fully disclose the immense strength of the Sun Alliance. The benefits of our consistent policy of looking for long-term growth in our portfolio of equities and property were clearly demonstrated during 1989 by the increase of more than £800m in the Group's net assets. This balance sheet strength gives us the capacity to underwrite with confidence on a European and worldwide scale, to expand our business in a coherent manner in the developing financial services market, and to maintain dividend growth despite the inevitable fluctuations of underwriting results.

The embedded value, which represents the shareholders' interest in our existing UK long-term insurance business, has been independently valued as at 31st December 1989 at over £550m. Whilst this is considerably less than the appraisal value of our long-term business, which includes the value of future new business, it does furnish further evidence of the strength of the Group.

STOCK MARKET

Shares hit low point of the year

THE news that Sir James Goldsmith's Hoylake group was not going to renew its £1.3 billion bid for BAT Industries came too late for a stock market that had spent all day exploring the year's lowest levels.

In a market increasingly dependent on special situations to stimulate activity, the gloomy news that Britain's biggest takeover has been abandoned does not augur well. The concern now is whether Sir James and his partners have given up because of regulatory difficulties or because they feel London shares no longer offer value.

BAT shares fell 4p to 724p. Today, all eyes will focus on Ranks Horis McDougal, down 2p at 375p, where Sir James owns a 29 per cent stake. Hoylake has massive fees it must be anxious to recoup.

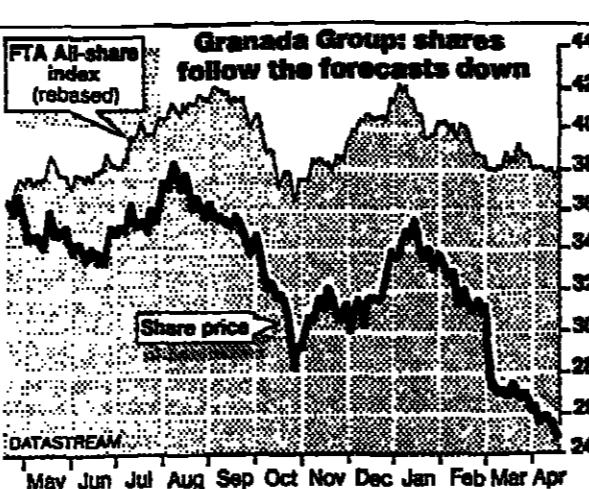
Ahead of the Hoylake de-

cision, the market was depressed by worse-than-expected money supply figures.

After opening cautiously lower, the FT-SE 100 index showed signs of stabilising about 10 points below Friday's close, despite a big programme trade thought to emanate from Smith New Court. But figures showing a 6.4 per cent growth in M0, higher than the Government's 1 to 5 per cent target range,

brought fresh weakness. With the market also disturbed by reports that the West German authorities had agreed a partial one-for-one exchange rate with their East German counterparts, prices fell swiftly. Wall Street added to the misery by opening sharply lower. The FT-30 index closed 19.9 lower at 1,692.7, while the FT-SE 100 index fell 27.9 points to close just above the low of the day and year, at 2,159.2.

The threat of continuing



high interest rates claimed casualties in the property and housebuilding sectors. After Sheraton Securities' suspension last week, shares in Broadwell Land, the USM-quoted developer, fell 28p to 84p. The news that Anglo Secure Homes, the sheltered homes specialist, had opted for the suspension route,

knocked 11p off McCarthy & Stone, the other quoted specialist contractor, which closed at 38p. Bestwood, the property and financial group, was suspended at 42p.

Disappointment over Hammerson's 6 per cent increase in net assets, particularly in the wake of an analysts' visit to its European

properties, knocked its shares. The A shares fell 23p to 720p, while the ordinary shares closed 21p lower at 763p. Frogmore Estates, where Markshead has built a large stake, fell 11p to 359p.

Eurotunnel shares improved 5p to 578p, despite confirmation that the developer of the Channel Tunnel would be raising more than £2 billion of further finance.

The clearing banks came in for a hammering, responding to comment that shares in large American banks are trading on much higher yields than their British counterparts. Barclays and National Westminster bore the brunt, falling 7p to 519p and 16p to 311p respectively. Midland fell 6p to 310p, while Lloyds slid 9p to 255p.

In the leisure sector, shares in Great Walker fell 6p to 260p on continuing worries about the company's gearing, while more profit downgrad-

ings lay behind Granada's fall to 22p, down 16p on the day. Forecasts are beginning to converge on pre-tax profits of only £150 million for the current year, compared to £164 million last time.

Elsewhere, Glaxo fell 15p to 770p as the ulcer battle with AB Asta, its Swedish competitor, continued.

In the retail sector, it was a day of extraordinary contrasts. Shares in Aquascutum, the Regents Street clothes retailer, soared on news of the £74 million agreed bid from Renown, the Japanese clothes maker. The company's non-voting A shares closed up 57p at 200p, while the ordinary shares closed up 205p at 545p.

Rainiers Group rose 7p on news of pre-tax profits 41 per cent higher at £121 million. However, they fell back to close 1p better at 227p.

Matthew Bond

WORLD MARKETS

Fall in bonds hits Dow

New York Wall Street shares fell on a continuing decline in US bond prices. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 19.82 points at 2,676.13, with declining issues far outnumbering gains. The problem of falling bond prices, plus higher yields, is overshadowing the flow of first-quarter earnings, said analysts.

■ Tokyo — The Nikkei index closed down 156.37 points, or 1.5046%. ■ Sydney — The All-Ordinaries Index finished 8.9 points off at 1,483.4.

(Reuters)

Due to technical difficulties at Euston we cannot publish yesterday's Wall Street closing prices.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Up '000	V. /- '000	Vol '000
ADT	3,628	676	3,003
Abbey Nat	2,681	2,191	5,267
Ady-Lyon	1,028	458	357
ABG	1,027	522	1,710
ASDA	51	505	73
AB Foods	1,222	228	2,660
Anglia	1,251	222	3,078
BA	1,222	222	3,078
GET	1,141	221	1,988
BTR	1,180	153	2,055
Burdys	5,939	5,274	2,858
Bass	124	2,728	1,207
Beazer	741	405	344
Beechill Int	181	1,045	73
BCCI	2,226	747	673
BEC Circle	822	341	4,478
Boots	1,793	341	1,128
BPS	1,950	409	2,058
Br-Aero	1,222	222	2,058
Br Council	1,777	170	3,339
Br Gas	1,222	170	3,339
Br Land	152	1,101	1,382
Br Petrol	1,222	170	446
Br Telecom	2,700	409	1,015
Bundi	351	62	458
Burnett	2419	158	477
Burton	2,419	158	1,921
Cadbury	2,549	367	351
Calor	27	181	412
Carton	544	97	1,035
Costa	2,667	655	375

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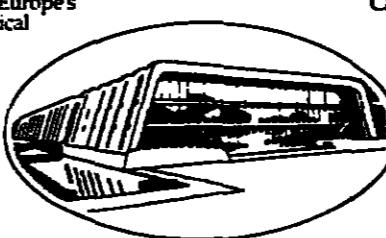
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THE LAW

When is sex in marriage legally rape?

Faced with a survey in which about 15 per cent of married women claimed to have been raped by their husbands, the Government has asked the Law Commission to report on whether the centuries-old law protecting husbands from prosecution in such cases should be repealed.

The commission has already recommended that a man should forfeit his conjugal rights when the spouses are living apart, and the courts have long since been convicting husbands who have demanded sex from their wives during a legal separation.

Why, then, should wives not share with cohabiting and single women the right to refuse their partners sex? Chris Barton examines the complexities in an increasing number of matrimonial cases

LEGAL BRIEF

Why should a wife not share with cohabiting and single women the right to refuse their partners sex? Chris Barton examines the complexities in an increasing number of matrimonial cases

more unsatisfactory that the criminal law is pressed into service in this respect; the husband's residuary immunity from prosecution for wife-rape is tasteless enough *per se*, without it being a prime source of authority for what a spouse can do.

Recently, in *R v Kowalski*, the Court of Appeal heard of the

appellant's disgusting and abominable behaviour towards his wife. The couple had been living apart under the same roof when Mr Kowalski came "home" one day and held a knife to her throat. He forced her to strip and hustled her to a bedroom where, with the knife at the back of her neck, he forced her to perform oral sex and then to submit to coitus.

At Exeter Crown Court, he received "an immediate custodial sentence", surprisingly reduced on appeal to two years for indecent assault and actual bodily harm.

Instead of making it clear that such horrendous violations of his marriage merited severe punishment, the law was sufficiently ambivalent on the matter of indecent assault between spouses to encourage him to appeal.

One point made by the appellant was that, although a man may be guilty of indecent assault on his wife, fellatio followed by copulation would not suffice. Such conduct, he argued, must be covered by the consent to intercourse which is automatically implicit within marriage, particularly where there is a history of consent to the practice.

In delivering the judgment, Judge Kennedy said that while fellatio is not unlawful it is not a marital entitlement, either as foreplay or an end in itself. A history of consent makes no difference.



Family confessions: these actresses portray the grief behind the statistics on rape in marriage

This tangential approach to the sexual rights of spouses has created confusion. In particular, the law seems unable to distinguish the rights from the remedies. Cases such as *R v Kowalski* are not essentially concerned with delinquent husbandly sexual entitlement but only with limiting his recourse to self-help.

In that respect, at least, the cases are moving in a direction that many will applaud, although, as the Government has recognized,

making them one person: him. In *R v Clarke*, Judge Byrne held that a magistrates' court separate order was enough to lift the immunity. In the *Miller* case (1954), however, Judge Lynks said that the mere filing of a divorce petition was insufficient to sustain a rape charge, although by 1974, in the *O'Brien* case, Judge Park felt able to make a further incursion within the common law principle in circumstances where the wife had obtained a decree nisi.

In the *Kowalski* case, it must be admitted that the decision does address, at least in part, the question of what a spouse may legally expect, as well as the question of what he may not take. Unfortunately, even in that respect, it raises more questions than answers.

Apart from failing to give guidance on what forms of foreplay, or alternatives to coitus, are implicit within the marriage contract, the case also fails to make it clear whether a wife's refusal to supply fellatio would be sufficient to justify his husband's recourse to divorce — or, if not, whether his demand for such services would justify a petition on her part.

Chris Barton is a principal lecturer in law at Staffordshire Polytechnic.

Many people will consider it

Chancery Division

Common law wife not recognized

Rignall (Inspector of Taxes) v Andrews

Before Mr Justice Ferris [Judgment April 10]

For income tax purposes a "wife" was someone who had entered into a lawful marriage with a particular man. A relationship of cohabitation, sometimes called common law marriage, however close or permanent, was not enough.

Mr Justice Ferris so held in the Chancery Division in allowing an appeal by the Crown from a determination by the general commissioners for New Forest (West) that had allowed claims by the taxpayer, Mr David S. Andrews, to entitlement to the married man's allowance, under the provisions of section 3 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

By section 3 a taxpayer was entitled to such higher allowance "(a) if he proves — (i)

that, for the year of assessment he has his wife living with him, or (ii) that his wife is wholly maintained by him during the year of assessment..."

Mr Alan Moses for the Crown; Mr Andrews did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE FERRIS said that the commissioners had allowed the taxpayer's claim to entitlement to the higher rate of personal allowance for the seven years of assessment from 1979-80 to 1985-86.

They had decided that for the whole of each of those years the taxpayer had proved that he had wife living with him.

The taxpayer was not married. His case was that he did not have to prove that he had contracted any marriage recognized as such in English law. He said that he had cohabited for 11 years with a woman who had changed her surname to

Andrews and that was sufficient. The commissioners held that the references in section 3(1)(a) to a "wife" did not require that the lady in question should be a person with whom the taxpayer had entered into a formal relationship of marriage but that it was sufficient that she should be what was described as a "common law wife".

The Crown challenged that conclusion. The commissioners, it was said, had not addressed themselves to other provisions in the 1970 Act which by necessary implication indicated that the term "wife" was confined to a woman who had entered into a marriage but was merely cohabiting, however close or permanent the relationship might be.

The reasoning of the commissioners for reaching their determination could not be sustained and the Crown's appeal was allowed.

Mr Moses also referred to various sections in Chapter IV of the Act, headed "Aggregation

of income — husband and wife". Those provisions, it was argued, were expressed in terms which assumed that the husband and wife whose incomes were to be aggregated were persons who had entered into a marriage and were not merely cohabiting.

Those provisions did indeed show that the 1970 Act the term "wife" was used only to denote a woman who had entered into a marriage that was recognized by the civil law of England, with a particular man and that the term was not apt to cover a woman who had not entered into a marriage but was merely cohabiting, however close or permanent the relationship might be.

The reasoning of the commissioners for reaching their determination could not be sustained and the Crown's appeal was allowed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Law Report April 24 1990

Positive job discrimination unlawful

Lambeth London Borough v Commission for Racial Equality

Before Lord Justice Mustill, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Mann [Judgment April 4]

The purpose of the Race Relations Act 1976 was to eliminate discrimination on racial grounds and it was not legitimate to construe the Act as having a separate main purpose of promoting positive action to benefit racial groups.

In section 5 of the Act (permitting, exceptionally, discrimination by an employer in relation to "any employment where being of a particular racial group is a genuine occupational qualification for the job"), the provision in subsection (2)(d) specifying that membership of a particular racial group was a genuine occupational qualification where "the holder of the job provides persons of that racial

group with personal services promoting their welfare, and those services can most effectively be provided by a person of that racial group" contained direct contact between the giver and the recipient of the services.

Accordingly, an industrial tribunal had not erred in deciding that advertisements placed by a local authority for a group manager and assistant head in their housing benefits department and stating that the posts were confined to Afro-Caribbean and Asian applicants were unlawfully discriminatory contrary to section 29 of the Act.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by Lambeth London Borough Council from the decision of June 13, 1989, of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mrs. Wood, Mr. L. Boyle and Mr. D. Scott) ((1989) ICR 641; *The Times* June 15, 1989) dismissing an appeal by Lambeth from a decision of the industrial tribunal sent to the parties on August 23, 1988.

Mr Philip Engelman for Lambeth; Mr Paul T. Rose for the commission.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that it was undoubtedly the case that certain sections of the Race Relations Act 1976 encouraged positive action to meet the special needs of particular racial groups in certain defined fields by providing a general cloak of otherwise be unlawful should not be so if done for those purposes.

Nevertheless, like the Employment Appeal Tribunal, his Lordship was wholly unpersuaded that one of the two main purposes of the Act was to promote positive action to benefit racial groups.

The purposes of the Act, as stated in its long title, was "to make fresh provision with respect to discrimination on racial grounds and relations between people of different racial groups", and the substance of the operative parts of the Act was to render acts of discrimination unlawful.

It was true that sections 35, 37 and 38 allowed for limited acts of positive discrimination but that did not constrain the court to give to section 5(2)(d) a meaning which its words did not naturally bear.

If section 5(2)(d) had been intended to provide for positive action in the particular field to which it related, one would have expected to find it grouped together with sections 33, 37 and 38, rather than as the last paragraph in a group relating to dramatic performance. (See *McDonald v. Odeon* (1988) 100 restaurants (for example, Chinese take-away) where membership of a racial group was required for reasons of authenticity.)

The only other reported decision in which section 5(2)(d) had been considered was *Tottenham Green Under Five Centre v Marshall* ((1989) ICR 214), in which, giving the judgment of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, Mr Justice Wood had said (at p218):

"The purpose of the Act of 1976 is to eliminate discrimination on racial grounds, and in construing section 5 it is important not to go too wide a field. It is not appropriate for it to provide an excuse or cloak for undesirable discrimination; on the other hand where genuine attempts are being made to integrate ethnic groups into society, too narrow a construction might stifle such initiatives."

In their judgment in the instant case the appeal tribunal had cited that passage and had

Court of Appeal

Standard of proof for coroner's jury in death case

Regina v Wolverhampton Coroner, Ex parte McCurbin

Before Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Wood [Judgment March 12]

Where it was open to a coroner's jury to find a verdict of unlawful killing and death by misadventure, the coroner, in directing them on the appropriate standard of proof, should indicate that they must be satisfied so that they were sure that there was an unlawful killing, but that where they were not so satisfied, they might apply a less heavy burden of proof, namely the balance of probabilities, to the question of misadventure.

Where, further, the coroner had in part misdirected the jury but not so as to affect their verdict, the court would not intervene by way of judicial review.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Mr Desmond McCurbin, brother of the deceased, Clinton McCurbin, from the dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (*The Times* July 18, 1989) of his application to quash the verdict of the Wolverhampton Coroner's jury of death by misadventure, and to order a new inquest into the death of Clinton McCurbin.

The Court of Appeal held that in view where a serious allegation was made, obviously a high standard of proof was required, however it was defined.

His Lordship also referred to

dicta of Lord Scarman in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Khawaja* ([1984] AC 74, 112 (1st seg)) who had stated that although there was technically a distinction between the two standards of proof, judges — and his Lordship would add, all tribunals — had to be cautious not to create problems for themselves by approaching the question in an artificial manner.

From the practical point of view where a serious allegation was made, obviously a high standard of proof was required, however it was defined.

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dicta of Lord Scarman in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Khawaja* ([1984] AC 74, 112 (1st seg)) who had stated that although there was technically a distinction between the two standards of proof, judges — and his Lordship would add, all tribunals — had to be cautious not to create problems for themselves by approaching the question in an artificial manner.

Having considered the cor-

oner's directions both as to

standard of proof and as to

what his Lordship was satisfied

that some misdirection in that

coroner had referred to

misdirection in that the

THE LAW

Chance dictates a worldly future

A new star will appear in the firmament of business law next week. Nigel Fox Bassett, aged 40, takes over as the managing partner at Clifford Chance, Britain's largest law firm.

In his preparation for what could be described as the top job in commercial law, Mr Fox Bassett has three advantages: he is well known in the City; he has considerable overseas experience; and he has been welcomed into office by his partners.

But he also faces a challenge. Emerging from the shadow of Sir Max Williams, the retiring senior partner, Mr Fox Bassett will have to work hard to prove himself a match for his predecessor.

In the commercial context, Clifford Chance is the self-appointed standard-bearer for the English legal profession. Mr Fox Bassett, a partner for 30 years, will, therefore, attract attention as he tries to steer the firm over new horizons.

He has already become "public property". Indeed, with Clifford Chance's continued growth, he may become the first "captain of industry" that the legal profession has created.

How will he cope? "People say

he established by the vision to which Mr Fox Bassett and his senior colleagues subscribe.

As a result, developments by firms such as Norton Rose and Norton Nohro in expanding their international connections are regarded as being entirely irrelevant to the Clifford Chance game plan.

"We may have considered briefly the possibility of expansion in the regions, but we rejected the idea," Mr Fox Bassett says.

Clifford Chance once described itself as a London-based international firm, but now believes it is a European-based international firm. In promoting this image, Mr Fox Bassett regards himself primarily as the firm's ambassador. As a diplomat and keen student of history, he has the right kind of credibility for mobilizing Clifford Chance as a leading player on the international law scene.

Mr Fox Bassett says attention will be focused on the Continent for some time. But he says Tokyo, where the firm is now prominent in banking, is probably the fastest-growing office of all. And Hong Kong (or a Hong Kong substitute), which serves Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, as well as mainland China, also has an important future.

However, the general context will

be established by the vision to which Mr Fox Bassett and his senior colleagues subscribe.

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However, the general context will



Nigel Fox Bassett: "People say I have a hard act to follow"

The report of the Advisory Group on Video Recorded Evidence, set up by the Home Office under Judge Pigot QC, was published last December. It primarily concerned the plight of child witnesses in trials for sexual offences and offences of violence, cruelty and neglect.

However, the group's terms of reference were not confined to children and it was recognized that in some cases adults who are forced to give evidence in the conventional way in court suffer unacceptable levels of distress.

The report, therefore, contains proposals which would benefit adult victims as well.

The group recommends that an adult who is to be a witness at a trial on indictment for a sexual or violent offence, or at a similar trial in the juvenile court, should be able to apply to be treated as a vulnerable witness. For example, the judge would have to decide whether the witness was likely to suffer "an unusual and unreasonably degree of mental stress" if required to give evidence in open court.

The group says there should be a rebuttable presumption of vulnerability in the case of adult victims of serious sexual offences. Other likely beneficiaries of the proposals would be the very old and frail and the mentally handicapped.

Once a witness had been classified as vulnerable, the judge would have several options. Firstly, he could order a showing at the trial of a video-recorded interview with the witness made by the police. At present such recordings are generally inadmissible as evidence because of the hearsay rule.

The judge would have to see the video before deciding whether it should be admitted. He would take account of the code of practice which the group has recommended

should be drawn up to provide guidance on the conduct of video-recorded interviews so that they are suitable for use in court.

The judge may decide that the admission of video-recorded evidence is all that is necessary.

But the witness may be terrified at the prospect of being in the courtroom with the defendant. In this event, the judge would be able either additionally or alternatively to permit evidence to be given from a different room through closed-circuit television.

This would require an extension of the existing provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, which permits children under 14 in sexual and certain other cases to give evidence in this way.

For a small number of vulnerable witnesses, however, any participation in the trial will involve such a high level of trauma, regardless of whether assistance is provided by way of video evidence or closed-circuit television, that a complete alternative is the best solution.

In these cases, the judge would be able to order that the witness should give evidence at a "preliminary hearing" so that an appearance at the trial would be unnecessary.

The only people present would be the judge, counsel for both sides, the witness and a supporter for the witness if this were thought to be necessary. The accused would not be present in the room, but would

view the proceedings through a two-way mirror or on closed-circuit television. There would be an audio link between the accused and his or her counsel. No robes would be worn and the surroundings would be informal and comfortable.

Examination-in-chief of the witness would take place in the usual way unless a suitable video-recorded interview taken by the police was available. In this event, examination of the witness would be substantially abbreviated.

When the case eventually came to trial, all would proceed as usual except for the absence of the vulnerable witness.

The video-recording of the examination-in-chief and cross-examination of the witness at the preliminary hearing would be shown at the appropriate stages of the trial instead.

Jennifer Temkin

The author is Professor of Law and Dean of the School of Law at the University of Buckingham and was a member of the Advisory Group on Video Recorded Evidence.

OUTS

The failure last week of a Cairo court to give effect to an order of an English court awarding a woman custody of her three young children highlights the plight of parents who lose their children overseas through abduction by the non-custodial parent. Since 1984, English law has improved the remedies available to parents whose children have been abducted, particularly by giving effect to two international conventions on child abduction. However, if not covered by the conventions (Egypt, for example, has not signed or ratified either of them), parents have no option but to travel to the country concerned and institute proceedings there - a time-consuming and expensive process. The establishment of an all-party group of MPs to "devise, plan and implement policies which will more effectively prevent children from being abducted from the UK and which will promote the return of children who have already been abducted" has, therefore, been welcomed by those who have experienced the trauma of losing a child overseas. This includes members of the self-help group Remite - set up by parents whose children have been abducted - who have reported on the first meeting of the all-party group in their most recent newsletter. The group is calling for a charter for abducted children, to include a children's commissioner, to represent the interests of abducted children in the UK and abroad, legal aid abroad to finance the costs of court cases and access visits and judicial training to increase awareness among the UK judiciary of the seriousness of child abduction. The group would also like the law changed to require the surrender of passports during custody proceedings and marking of passports with custody decisions. Whether their demands will be met will depend on the all-party group's members managing to squeeze a Bill into the packed parliamentary timetable.

Free movement of people throughout the European Community is one of the pivotal aims of the Single European Act, but exactly which people will the new laws encompass? Concern is growing among the 7.5 million non-Community citizens, most of whom are black or from ethnic minorities, that it may not include them. The proportion of non-Community citizens in the member states ranges from 0.4 per cent of the population in Spain to 5.3 per cent of the population in West Germany. In the UK, only 1.8 per cent of residents are not citizens and almost half of these are citizens of other member states. Britain also has race discrimination legislation, which does not exist either in a number of other member states or at Community level. Particularly vulnerable are groups such as Algerians working in France, most of whom are not French citizens. It also includes Turks working in West Germany, who find it difficult to obtain citizenship even if they are born there. The European Commission is looking at the circumstances of the so-called "third country nationals", but no legislation is on the horizon. There is also the thorny issue of rights of asylum in the EC and controls at its external borders. The whole question is to be the subject of a TUC conference in June this year.

Medical negligence litigation is on the increase, according to recent statistics. Last year, the number of legal aid certificates issued for High Court medical negligence actions rose by 44 per cent to 6,054. Compensation paid by health authorities, which includes medical negligence awards, has increased almost threefold since 1984-85. Against this background, the Nuffield Foundation is to fund a major study of compensation for medical negligence to be undertaken by Dr Sally Lloyd-Bostock, of the Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, and Hazel Genn, who has previously researched into personal injury settlements and tribunal representations. The research project will cost £68,000 and will examine the impact of litigation on doctors, patients and lawyers. The study will also consider the pros and cons of a no-fault compensation scheme.

Scrivenor

Video takes the stand

Vulnerable adults also stand to benefit from an advisory group's suggestion that child witnesses should provide evidence by video

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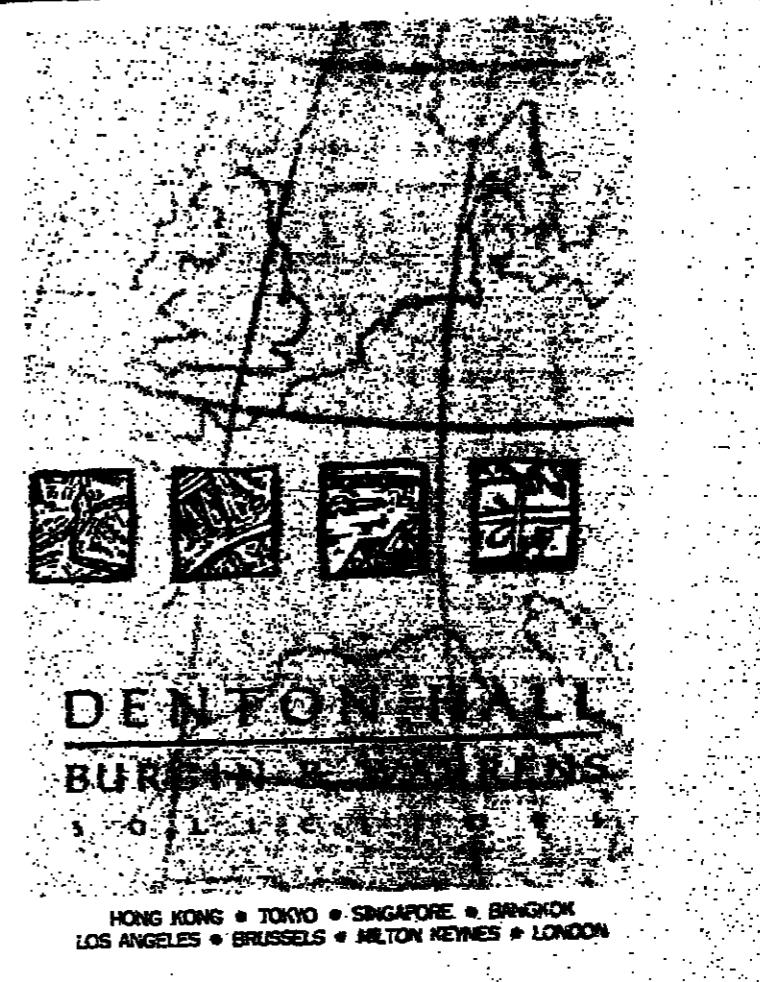
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Company & Commercial Department

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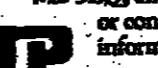
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Continued on next page

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Chemicals & Polymers

HORIZONS

At the top of your tree

The work of the tree surgeon should become increasingly appreciated as concern about the environment grows. Recent storm damage and deforestation have increased awareness of the importance of trees.

Tree surgery is a branch of arboriculture, the selection, cultivation, and production of trees and shrubs. The tree surgeon's main job is to ensure trees in urban areas are safe and aesthetically pleasing.

Paul Henry has worked as a tree surgeon for 10 years in Britain and West Germany. He predicts a strong future for his work as public concern grows for the welfare of trees. Mr Henry is self-employed.

Most of his jobs come from people with gardens, estates or land holdings. "As opposed to forestry, where the tree is seen more as a crop," Mr Henry says, "the arborist is concerned with trees for pleasure. My clients are simply people with trees."

"Often people will want to have a tree cut down because it blocks the light, or the leaves block drains, or they are afraid the roots of the tree are running under the house. Where possible, I will try to save a tree and might suggest pruning rather than felling. Much of my job is to do anything to a tree, I will tell people what I am going to do and why. I am amazed at how ill-informed people are about trees - not even being able to tell an oak from an ash, for instance."

The work of the tree surgeon can be risky. "Many people do not see the necessity of a tree surgeon," Mr Henry says. "They imagine anyone can climb a tree and lop off a few branches with a chain saw."

It could be termed the ultimate in green careers. Janis Mackay investigates the rapidly growing role of the tree surgeon

There are no fixed rates of pay, at least within the private sector, and I do not know of any tree surgeons driving BMWs. Our pay reflects what people feel their trees are worth. British tree surgeons have a way to go before enjoying the appreciation Germany affords."

Tree surgeons have formed professional groups to lift public awareness of their work. "A few of us around Edinburgh have recently formed the Scottish Guild of Professional Tree Surgeons," Mr Henry says.

In 1963, the Association of British Tree Surgeons and Arborists was formed and in 1964, the Arboricultural Association was formed. It now includes the Association of British Tree Surgeons and Arborists and was created to help raise standards in tree surgery work. It also provides information about training.

Before studying arboriculture, students gain experience working in the tree industry. Merrist Wood Agricultural College, the main agricultural college in Britain, insists that students work for a year in the industry before taking courses involving tree surgery. "I began working with a company called English Woodlands," Mr Henry says. "I was a general handyman. They had a small tree-

surgery section, and I began helping out, sorting ropes and equipment. I always had an interest in trees, and from there decided to go to Merrist Wood Agricultural College in Guildford."

"There we studied first and foremost trees - how they grow, basic biology, about woody shrubs and how to identify a wide range of native and non-native species, you learn climbing and rope techniques, how to remove branches safely, how to repair storm-damaged trees and how to undertake tree surveys."

"A lot of the training is to do with safety and tree surgeons have to be physically very fit and willing to work outdoors in all conditions. I know of no women tree surgeons," Mr Henry says. "and neither do I know of many tree surgeons over 40. Most people past that age turn to less strenuous forms of tree work, in planning or consultancy."

For anyone considering a career in tree surgery, Mr Henry recommends visiting arboreta, botanical gardens and getting to know about as many different trees as possible. "You really have to be fit and enjoy working outdoors," he says.

"Large trees usually require a team of tree surgeons, with perhaps one working in the tree and one or two on the ground. When felling a tree by the roadside, you might be the one directing the work."

"What keeps you going through snow and rain is the love of trees. For the tree surgeon, this is worth more than pieces of paper."



This tree has had to come down, but felling is sometimes necessary to save other trees or plants

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

HAMPSHIRE

Senior Commercial Services Appointments

The Commercial Services Department of Hampshire County Council is a new organisation which brings together the Highways, Catering, Building Cleaning and Vehicle Supply Services. Potential turnover for the department will be around £50 million p.a.

The Director of Commercial Services and four Managers are already in post and we now need to appoint two top level specialists to join them on the Group Management Board.

Head of Finance and Systems

Up to £30,000 plus Benefits

We are seeking a highly experienced financial manager who has the ability and maturity to lead a team involved in designing and developing the strategic framework of financial systems and controls for our new organisation. This vital role will suit a graduate with relevant professional qualifications, or a CIPFA member with broadly based experience in local government finance and of managing staff.

Head of Personnel Resource Planning

Up to £29,000 plus Benefits

Also sought to complete our management structure, is a Personnel Strategist with the ability to develop the Human Resource planning. Responsibilities will include the establishment of successful open management and staff communication channels; promoting training and development, involvement in HR and monitoring all issues relating to conditions of employment and employment law.

This position should be of interest to professional and ambitious personnel practitioners (ideally IPM qualified), with around 10 years experience.

This is a challenging and exciting time to contribute to the formation of a major organisation with around 6,000 staff, that will adopt commercial standards and business attitudes in a competitive environment. If this is of interest to you contact Nick Matheson on Winchester (0962) 847087 for an informal discussion. Application forms are available from the Director of Commercial Services, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8Nj.

Interviews will be held at the end of May.

We pursue a policy of equality of opportunities. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities.

COMMERCIAL SERVICES



THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU
is seeking to appoint a new

DIRECTOR

Salary: £33,126 - £35,010
(pay award pending)

The Bureau, committed to becoming an equal opportunity employer, is a major national charity concerned with all children across the boundaries of health, education and social services. The Bureau's special nature is fully rooted in its knowledge base, its policy and practice development and its multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach.

Our present Director is retiring and a successor is sought with leadership and management skills to fill this key organisational appointment.

Through a participatory leadership style, the Director is responsible for:

- * ensuring that the Bureau has a clear and unified strategy with effective implementation processes and monitoring mechanisms;
- * leading, motivating and directing staff at the Bureau to achieve its aims and objectives;
- * managing, promoting and enhancing the Bureau's public image and profile.

The person appointed will have an innovative and developmental approach, and have specific practical knowledge of children from one of the most professional disciplines i.e. health, social services or education. She/he will have obtained substantial experience at a high level of planning and managing staff and operational development, and will be able to demonstrate sound management ability and strong interpersonal skills.

A commitment to, and experience of, implementing strategies relating to equal opportunity issues and a sound understanding of social policy development are also seen as important.

For further information and application form please contact: Personnel Department, National Children's Bureau, 8 Wellesley Street, London EC2V 7QE. Telephone: 01-278 9441

Closing Date: 25th May 1990

PUBLIC FINANCE

HOUNSLOW & SPELTHORNE

Assistant Finance Managers

Post 1 - Ashford Acute Unit
Post 2 - Community and Mental Health Unit

Salary: £15,483-£20,857 pa
(depending on experience)

Fed up with routine work?

Ambitious? Innovative?

Looking for a new challenge?

New posts have been created to help us steer the Unit into the new environment demanded by the NHS White paper.

The post-holder will take a major role in:

- contract planning;
- developing the Unit's Business Plans;
- introducing integrated financial manpower and activity reports;
- review financial control systems;
- capital asset accounting;
- computer development.

The successful applicant will be a qualified/part qualified accountant with good communication skills, capable of producing quality results to tight deadlines.

For an informal discussion, please contact: Mrs Debbie Edwards, Unit Finance Manager, on 01-570 7715 ext 2211 or Mr Vic Jammet, Deputy Director of Finance, on 01-570 7715 ext 2214.

For application form and job description please contact: District Personnel Department, 82 Barn Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3EL. Tel: 01-570 7715 ext 224 (24 hour answering service). Quota Ref: C/A/B/98.

Closing date: May 2, 1990.

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SUFFOLK COUNTY TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

SENIOR MANAGER —

Paymaster Services Division

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THE DIVISION

: provides payroll, creditor payments, income collection, superannuation and insurance services for the County Council and others

: is moving towards operating as a business unit offering a flexible range of services to Departments as a "contractor" and on a trading account basis

THE JOB

: involves the specification and implementation of management accounting arrangements and information systems and contributing to the design, negotiation and delivery of service level agreements

: requires sound and imaginative thinking, initiative and action on a variety of stimulating tasks and against some broadly based objectives

: requires close working with senior management in the Treasurer's and other departments

: will stretch and challenge your leadership and inter-personal skills and stimulate your professional development

: requires stamina, determination and an ability to think clearly and work constructively while under pressure

: will provide excellent career prospects

THE PERSON

: will be innovative, self-motivated, and have good communication and leadership skills

: will have the drive and flexibility to succeed in a competitive environment

: will have a record of successful achievement at managerial level

: will probably be a qualified accountant and/or have substantial experience of accounting coding and management information systems

HOW TO APPLY:

Application forms may be obtained from the County Treasurer, PO Box 33, St. George's House, County Hall, Ipswich IP4 2LP or by telephoning (0473) 230000 ext. 5225. If you would like to discuss the vacancy, please contact Barry Brown (ext. 5311) or John Grand (ext. 5300).

Closing date for applications 4th May 1990

Suffolk County Council

PUBLIC FINANCE

London Postgraduate Hospitals Audit Consortium

Chief Internal Auditor

SMP 12 - £27,020 (including London Weighting)
plus PRP

This Consortium is responsible for the provision of an effective internal audit service at five Special Health Authorities located in and around Central London, with revenue expenditure of some £130 million. A number of major capital schemes are in progress.

The Chief Internal Auditor reports to an Audit Committee on matters of policy and to the respective Directors of Finance and General Managers and will continue the development of the Consortium to accord with best practice. This development will include the introduction of audit automation.

The range of work includes a significant commitment to value for money studies and the audit of major building schemes.

Applicants should possess relevant qualifications and have gained recent senior level experience of internal audit in the public or private sectors.

The post requires a well developed management technique, particularly in the meeting of deadlines and allocation of resources, and the inter-personal skills to work effectively with senior management at the participating Authorities.

For an informal discussion please contact Graeme Oram (the present Chief Internal Auditor) on 01-352 2145, or Peter Dunleavy (the Director of Finance and Information of the National Heart and Chest Hospitals) on 01-351 8016.

Application form and job description may be obtained from the Personnel Department, Royal Brompton and National Heart Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP. Tel: 01-351 8091 (24 hour answering service).

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE
COLLEGE SURVEYOR

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Further details from the Personnel Assistant, Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury CT1 1QU. Telephone: (0227) 762444. Closing Date: May 1, 1990.

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The salary package includes first class accommodation, a generous remuneration with full financial security, and a relocation package including first class removals, legal fees, and a car.

If you are between 30 and 40 and have a desire to work in a challenging environment, with a high standard of living, and a desire to move to a rural location, then please apply.

The Chief Executive (EC) Cherry House, Ascot, RG20 8UB. Tel: 0344 822 2444.

PUBLIC FINANCE

National Heart & Chest Hospitals

Applications are invited for the following posts in this internationally renowned group of London postgraduate hospitals specialising in the treatment and research of heart and lung diseases:

Deputy Director of Finance

(Resource Management)

Unit

Finance Manager

(Royal Brompton and National Heart Hospital)

Salaries (including London Weighting) c. £27,000 plus performance related pay:

Assistant Accountants

(Capital charges, credit control and financial management accounting)

Salaries (including London Weighting) in range £13,000-£16,000.

Relocation (including temporary accommodation) packages are available.

Candidates must be suitably qualified and experienced, seeking challenging and rewarding roles in an organisation where there is an emphasis on meeting deadlines for implementing new systems as well as for routine financial and management information.

Some of these challenges relate to the NHS Review (including contracting for patient services and better resource management) and the opening of a new hospital in Chelsea. In response to this, the Authority is implementing a number of new systems to facilitate better resource management and is also a Hospital Information Support Systems project site for patient administration and other systems. This environment will provide invaluable experience for those wishing to develop their careers.

For an informal discussion please contact Peter Dunleavy (Director of Finance and Information) on 01-351 8016, or Peter Scott (the present Deputy Director of Finance) on 01-352 8121 ext. 4253. The Unit General Manager, Jennifer Cowpe, will be pleased to talk to applicants interested in the Unit Finance Manager post (01-351 8009).

Application forms and job descriptions may be obtained from the Personnel Department, Royal Brompton and National Heart Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP. Tel: 01-351 8091, 24 hour answering service. Closing date: 4th May 1990.

Channel 4 chief executive expresses concern over possible satellite opposition at racing's first industry conference

Grade warns against TV auction

By Michael Seely and George Rae

MICHAEL Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, yesterday warned racecourses not to attempt to play off his company against satellite broadcasting interests.

Speaking at the Racing Industry Conference, subtitled Shaping the Future, at Sandown Park yesterday, Grade said: "Channel 4 will not entertain the idea of an auction for contracts. Quite simply our pockets are not deep enough. Moreover, alternative programming would not be hard to come by and would in all probability be a lot cheaper."

However, Grade was equally determined that individual courses should not break ranks, selling what he described as the "cherries" to the highest bidder leaving Channel 4 with an undistinguished remainder.

At present Channel 4 covers all five classics, an attractive prize to any new broadcasting



Michael Grade: not prepared to compromise organization seeking to establish itself in racing

would prefer to retire from racing rather than lose one of our cherries."

Before yielding what may be interpreted as a big stick, Grade had confirmed his commitment to Channel 4 racing but at a price. "I wholeheartedly endorse Channel 4's commitment to televised racing, a quality coverage of quality racing. This endorsement, however, would have to be called into question if the quality of

racing programmes were in any way significantly diminished."

Grade's warning was swiftly answered by Tim Neligan, who as managing director of United Racecourses, will negotiate his company's contract with Channel 4 in 18 months' time. "Our revenue from television is minuscule," he said. "We are under-selling ourselves." The opinions of the two men already suggest that there will be some hard

bargaining to be done when the moment arrives.

Grade was one of the few speakers to offer any new thoughts on what was ultimately a low-key day. Lord Wyatt, chairman of the Tote, did, however, come up with the novel suggestion that the Derby be run on a Saturday.

"I know it's been run on a Wednesday for 200 years but it's time the trial period came to an end," he said impishly.

JUDGEMENT must be reserved on the success of the conference (Michael Seely writes). There is no denying that bringing together all sections of the industry was an imaginative move by the Jockey Club, but there were still clear signs of the natural divisiveness which has plagued the industry.

On this evidence the industry was clearly not speaking with one voice. A glaring example came when the possibility of an off-course tote monopoly was dismissed out of hand by an early speaker, only for another to hold it up later as the answer to all of racing's ills.

If racing cannot come to terms with itself on such a basic issue it will convince few outsiders of its ability to put up a united front on anything.

Most of the speakers seem to have taken "we all have

problems" as their sub-text.

There was a dismaying tendency for many to put their respective cases as it applied to them rather than the industry as a whole.

The conference was portayed as the first step in attempting to iron out racing's problems and create a decisive policy for the Nineties, but the conclusion can only be that there is still a long road to travel.

Jones advocates system of tracks bidding for fixtures

By George Rae

ON A day of talking points,

Peter Jones, president-elect of the Racehorse Owners' Association, offered some of the most radical.

Having painted a picture of such financial gloom that any aspiring owner would have immediately dismissed the thought, Jones presented his association's proposals for change.

Chief among them was that racecourses should have to bid to stage fixtures, in the way that television companies must secure franchises. "The most attractive fixtures would then be held at those tracks prepared to contribute the most towards them," he said.

"The unpopular fixtures,

and therefore those in the greatest need of Levy Board assistance, would be swiftly identified."

Jones warmed to his theme of self-help, advocating that all races be opened to sponsorship. He singled out Royal

Ascot, which has no sponsorship, as the obvious example of a course's policy preventing outside funds coming into racing.

There's also scope for more racing," he went on.

The horse population is there, and the fixture list should be geared to greater encouragement of racing on Saturdays and at evening meetings.

"The industry has not been helped over the years by the Levy Board's policy of supporting unprofitable tracks."

The issue of poor facilities was echoed by George Harris, chairman of the Federation of British Racing Clubs. "At every turn" Harris said, "racegoers feel they are having to pay exorbitant prices for poor or downright shabby facilities.

"The feeling that they are being fleeced is further enhanced when they see new

BASKETBALL

England's success in shadow of Europe

By Nicholas Harling

THE certain return of the Kingston forward, Martin Clark, and the likely addition of the Brixton playmaker, Andrew Bailey, should ensure that England are even stronger for the summer tour of New Zealand than in the four countries' tournament they won in Glasgow at the weekend.

With the tricky return games in the European championship semi-finals, against Spain, Yugoslavia and West Germany, looming in November, the very least of David Ransom's requirements is to have a full-strength squad for his warm-up programme which would also have included Egypt at Bracknell and Worthing on Friday and Saturday had the African champions not confirmed their withdrawal yesterday because they are unable to meet the cost of travelling.

Not that the coach is used to such luxuries as having all his players available. "I've never once, since I had this job, been able to send out the team I originally selected," he said.

It was in the knowledge that the measure of their success in Glasgow is likely to be tempered by the difficulties arising later in the year, that England's celebrations on Sunday were fairly muted. To win a tournament against the likes of Denmark, Scotland and Ireland is one thing; to gain anything better than respectable margins of defeat against the best nations in Europe is quite another.

In the circumstances, England could do no more than win, and win in style, which was, to Ransom's immense satisfaction, a feat they accomplished at the end of a demanding week. "We came together on Tuesday and since then we have been training together through the time," the coach said. "I was not surprised that we showed some signs of fatigue, but everyone who came here did an excellent job."

He was loath to single out individuals, but his two playmakers, Baker and Landell, must have been high in his esteem. Landell's fine marking job on Hill also had much to do with England's victory over Scotland.

Any misgivings must come with reflections on the various difficulties England encountered in their last two games. A painfully long period without scoring, followed by a surprising rally from Ireland when Ransom changed his starting five. "We must improve on our passing skills and long range shooting," he concluded.

GOLF

Langer has proved his worth one more time

From Patricia Davies, Madrid

BERNHARD Langer is a good example of the old saying that "sportspersons are only as good as your last win, especially if you are a German and play golf."

He won the Open, Madrid, Open's 21st victory in Europe, and his third, in Spain, on Sunday, shooting a 67, five under par, to finish one stroke ahead of Rodger Davis, of Australia, the potential scourge of Ladbrokes (now eleven on the Volvo Order of Merit, he has £1,000 less to himself to finish in the top four).

THE US Masters champion in 1983, Langer has won at least one tournament a year on the European Tour since 1980 and can still command sizeable appearance fees, despite the odd disparaging cry of "I wouldn't pay him in washers". He has an acute sense of his own worth, but is not a charismatic figure.

He does, however, possess a quiet manner. He thought a united Germany would be one of the most powerful sporting nations in the world (gold apart),

presumably, and that the West had a lot to learn from the East in terms of training methods, especially diet -- and then, when that was the case, he said that made him say "I'm sorry in Spain", he replied. "Naranjas, 'Oranges' may not constitute a wide Spanish vocabulary, but it is the effort that counts."

By the reckoning of Langer's orange-peeler-in-chief — Peter Coleman, his caddie — the German is playing his best golf for 18 months, and certainly his best since he won the Spanish Open at El Saler last year. He will defend that title at Club de Campo in Madrid this week, against Severiano Ballesteros and Nick Faldo, among others.

They will not, however, include José-Maria Olazábal, whose negotiations with Amen Corner, the promoters of the event and keepers of the pay-payout purse, could not be concluded. In other words, Olazábal's estimation of his worth to his national Open did not accord with that of Roddy Carr, the chief executive of Amen Corner.

Woopnam eyes on Irish champion, his fellow United States Ryder Cup player, Mark McCormick, Bernhard Langer, of West Germany, and Rodger Davis, from Australia.

Heading the Irish challenge will be Ronan Raftery, last year's Volvo Order of Merit winner, and Christy O'Connor jun, the winner of the title at Woodbrook in 1975.

RUGBY UNION

England threaten to discard players for lack of fitness

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THOSE players ambitious to represent England in the next two World Cups were left in no doubt, yesterday, of the work required to attain their goal. Those who, in the opinion of the Rugby Football Union's technical advisors, do not meet pre-determined standards of fitness and skill, will be "eliminated quite ruthlessly", Don Rutherford, the RFU technical administrator, said.

Rutherford refuted any question of a clash with the game's amateur ethos. The RFU has examined the time required for preparation at the highest level by players and believes it to be compatible with individuals who hold a full-time job, though Dudley Wood, its secretary, suggests that breaking point is not too far away.

The union was announcing England's preliminary World Cup squad for 1991, a party of 32 who, Rutherford said, "in the opinion of the national

team management have earned their place as a right."

It is a smaller squad than anticipated and deliberately excludes Simon Halliday, of Bath, and Mark Bailey, of Wasps, who are carrying injuries requiring long-term rest and treatment. There is confirmation of Nigel Redman's return to form for Bath and recognition of Ian Smith's consistency with the Gloucester back row.

Tony Underwood, who is also in the squad, has withdrawn from the XV to play an Italian XV in Rovigo next

RFU debates payments

THE Rugby Football Union committee meets on May 4 to discuss the implications of the decision last month by the International Rugby Football Board to expand the scope of financial compensation to players preparing for international games (David Hands writes).

Peter Yarranton (Middlesex) and Bob Ross (Sussex) will represent the RFU at the IRFB meeting to study the regulations relating to "communications for reward". Its conclusions are expected in October.

The RFU opposes the principle, but, with Ireland, was outvoted at the IRFB meeting in March. As member unions can decide if they wish to adopt financial compensation, players

from different unions could possibly be treated unequally.

Peter Yarranton (Middlesex) and Bob Ross (Sussex) will represent the RFU at the IRFB meeting to study the regulations relating to "communications for reward". Its conclusions are expected in October.

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ICE HOCKEY

Finale cannot hide concerns

By Norman de Mesquita

THE Heineken championship final on Sunday was, without doubt, the best game seen at Wembley in the modern era. It crowned a wonderful season for Cardiff Devils, and proved that Murrayfield Racers were not far behind them.

However, another successful Wembley weekend should not be allowed to disguise the fact that, in some respects, the past season has been one to cause concern.

It started with the demise of Tayside Tigers and Richmond Flyers. Dundee Dragons were also lost during the season, which meant two nine-team divisions.

At the end of the season, the new owners of Streatham ice rink announced there will be no Redskins next season, and the owners of Gillingham Ice Bowl have told the Medway Bears

that they will not play there again.

The sport can ill afford to lose

so many teams in one year. On the plus side, there is the impending arrival of Milton Keynes, which will seat 2,500 and has a management team that is geared to hockey and, in association with that, the appointment of a national coach, whose primary responsibility will be to teach coaches how to train young players.

The new national championship final at Wembley, on Saturday, once again showed that there is skill in abundance among players taking up the sport.

There must be reservations about the way the game is played at the highest level in this country. Coaches are still using too few players and the opportunities for youngsters to get ice time are still limited. There are

ways to overcome this, one of

which would be to adopt the National Hockey League rule

whereby teams do not play

short-handed when matching penalties are awarded.

Perhaps it is also time to reduce the imports to two.

Nevertheless, whatever is wrong with British ice hockey, we must salute a wonderful season for John Lawless and his Cardiff Devils, who lost only four times in 49 league and cup games, closely followed by Murrayfield Racers, who suffered only nine defeats in 46 games.

What a shame that their

coach, Leo Koopmans, has decided to turn his back on this country. He has promised to reveal his reasons, which are mainly concerned with what he describes as poor administration.

The team management has

done well in getting the

Devils to play in the

finals of the European

championship.

Not on cocaine: Wiggin v

Not County

FOURTH DIVISION

X Burnley v Scarsdale

1 Carlisle v Shropshire

2 Cardiff v Shrewsbury

3 Coventry v Northampton

4 Luton v Shrewsbury

5 Macclesfield v Cheshire

6 Merton v Bedford

7 Northampton v Northants

8 Oldham v Shropshire

9 Shrewsbury v Cheshire

10 Wiggin v Northants

11 Wiggin v Shropshire

12 Wiggin v Northants

13 Wiggin v Shropshire

14 Wiggin v Northants

15 Wiggin v Shropshire

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26 Wiggin v Northants

27 Wiggin v Northants

Smyth set for encore with Dismiss

By Mandarin

DISMISS can give the locals something to cheer on the opening day of the spring meeting by landing the Westminster Motor (Taxi) Insurance City & Suburban Handicap for the second year running at Epsom this afternoon.

Trained by that wily veteran, Ron Smyth, Dismiss was the easiest of winners on soft going 12 months ago but is equally at home on faster ground as she showed when scoring on good to firm going at Salisbury and Newmarket as a three-year-old.

Smyth is a past master at preparing his charges for the big handicaps — there are few in the calendar he has not won — and he has booked Michael Hills to ride for the first time since the combination was successful a year ago.

After her Epsom success, Dismiss rose dramatically in

the weights but twice ran creditably under 10 stone to be beaten a neck by Summer Fashion (see 1986) at Goodwood in June and half a length by Fire Top over today's course and distance in August.

Fire Top, a game and consistent performer last year, went on to land good handicaps at Redcar and Ascot but now reappears on 6lb worse terms.

Starlet and Husted, both with winning form this season, are likely to head the market but I have slight reservations about both and they seem unlikely to represent value.

The former was an easy winner of the Roebury eight days ago but had an important fitness advantage after two runs at Chelmsford. She drifted stunningly to the left inside the last furlong at Kempton and Epsom's difficult cambers

and I expect her to do well.

Starlet and Husted, both



Ron Smyth looking for a repeat with Dismiss could conceivably cause her problems.

Husted won well under a big weight Haydock 10 days ago and, as son of Kalganoff, may well have improved since last year. However, his four victories have all been gained over longer trips and he seems likely to find this trip on the sharp side.

The Princess Elizabeth Stakes runners include four Oaks entries in Rafferty, Hobie,

of the remainder, I expect Ben Adhem, the 1988 winner, and Halkoppon, a progressive three-year-old last term, to run well but Dismiss is a sporting nap to give his 7-year-old trainer another good handicap prize.

The two trials on today's programme seldom yield any light on the classics themselves with the leading trainers seemingly loath to run their best prospects here prior to the Derby meeting.

Of the six runners in the Warren Stakes, Shout And Sing, Spinning and Sober Mind all hold the Derby entry while Stella Bianca is in the Oaks. However, it would be no surprise to see High Beacon, an impressive Kempton handicapper winner under top weight, beat them all.

The Princess Elizabeth Stakes runners include four Oaks entries in Rafferty, Hobie,

Cup Of Tricks and Long Island. Rafferty, representing last year's successful combination of Henry Cecil and Steve Cauthen, looks the pick on the strength of her group three May Hill Stakes success at Doncaster in September.

Pat Eddery has clear-cut chances of a double in the first two races, Domino Trick's experience should be decisive in the Cuddington Maiden Auction Stakes while Vainour, fourth in the Lincoln last time and a good second over today's course and distance on Derby day last year, has a favourite's chance in the Ladymore Credit Handicape.

On a competitive National Hunt card at Perth, Jimmy Fitzgerald and Mark Dwyer hold a strong hand in the novice hurdles with Rostherne (3.30) and Uncle Ernie (6.0).

Blinded first time

episode 4.40 Arctic Heights.

Stoute relies on Rock Hopper as Sasaki sidesteps Sandown

By Paul Wheeler

SASAKI, the ante-post Derby favourite, has not accepted for Saturday's Guards' Classic Trial at Sandown Park. The son of Sadler's Wells has been one of the market leaders for Epsom since winning his only race, a maiden at Leicester last October.

Currently rated at 10-1 with Cosci, Hulis and the Tote, and 1-1 with Ladbrokes, he had a racecourse work-out at Newmarket last week and another gallop on Sunday.

His trainer, Michael Stoute, had expected to enter for this race. However, a spokesman for the yard stressed yesterday that all was well with the colt. "There's nothing wrong, but Mr Stoute thinks that he's not ready to run him yet. No firm plans have been made."

Stoute will now be represented by Rock Hopper, who won two of his three races last season. Among the other eight entries is Marienski, one of Dick Hennessy's Derby candidates.

Hennessy will be hoping for better things after the defeat of his two previous leading Guards' International Hurdles in Kent on Sunday night, were still not certain yesterday just how much prize-money they have won.

Meanwhile, Sandown also stages the last major race of the National Hunt season with the 36th running of the Whinbread Gold Cup. The expected defection of Desert Orchid means the race is likely to be won by the stable, with Kildimo and Cavies Clown at the top of the handicap.

Cavies make the Grand National

his foot before he was due to run at Wetherby over Easter and so it will depend on how much work he has missed because of that. But he seems fine and, as far as I know, we are planning to run."

GUARDIAN CLASSIC TRIAL (Group II) 2m 2f. Racing Centre (at Oldham). Col. Tony (G) (C) (P). Progressive Play (G) Hencrow, Karina Bay (Derry Smart), Menphis (W Harr), Misnomer Ridge (S) Hall, Rainbow Stripes (T) Gandy, Redhead (M) Soden, Victory Pipe (J) Jarrett.

WHINBREAD GOLD CUP HANDICAP (Chase 9f 2f Steep) Kildimo 116/7, Cavies Clown 11-7, The Thinker 11-6, Stranda On Gold 11-5, Durban Gold 9, 10-5, 11-5, 12-5, 13-5, 14-5, 15-5, 16-5, 17-5, 18-5, 19-5, 20-5, 21-5, 22-5, 23-5, 24-5, 25-5, 26-5, 27-5, 28-5, 29-5, 30-5, 31-5, 32-5, 33-5, 34-5, 35-5, 36-5, 37-5, 38-5, 39-5, 40-5, 41-5, 42-5, 43-5, 44-5, 45-5, 46-5, 47-5, 48-5, 49-5, 50-5, 51-5, 52-5, 53-5, 54-5, 55-5, 56-5, 57-5, 58-5, 59-5, 60-5, 61-5, 62-5, 63-5, 64-5, 65-5, 66-5, 67-5, 68-5, 69-5, 70-5, 71-5, 72-5, 73-5, 74-5, 75-5, 76-5, 77-5, 78-5, 79-5, 80-5, 81-5, 82-5, 83-5, 84-5, 85-5, 86-5, 87-5, 88-5, 89-5, 90-5, 91-5, 92-5, 93-5, 94-5, 95-5, 96-5, 97-5, 98-5, 99-5, 100-5, 101-5, 102-5, 103-5, 104-5, 105-5, 106-5, 107-5, 108-5, 109-5, 110-5, 111-5, 112-5, 113-5, 114-5, 115-5, 116-5, 117-5, 118-5, 119-5, 120-5, 121-5, 122-5, 123-5, 124-5, 125-5, 126-5, 127-5, 128-5, 129-5, 130-5, 131-5, 132-5, 133-5, 134-5, 135-5, 136-5, 137-5, 138-5, 139-5, 140-5, 141-5, 142-5, 143-5, 144-5, 145-5, 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718-5, 719-5, 720-5, 721-5, 722-5, 723-5, 724-5, 725-5, 726-5, 727-5, 728-5, 729-5, 730-5, 731-5, 732-5, 733-5, 734-5, 735-5, 736-5, 737-5, 738-5, 739-5, 740-5, 741-5, 742-5, 743-5, 744-5, 745-5, 746-5, 747-5, 748-5,

Success story struggling for direction

Everybody in snooker is unanimous about one thing: the sporting success story of the Eighties is at the crossroads.

Thereafter the consensus falls apart. There are deep divisions about which direction to follow, and even deeper ones about who is going to lead the way.

This may seem astonishing, for snooker was the surprise of the last decade. From being a sport played by a few professionals and in often sleazy clubs in the afternoons by people with dubious sources of income, snooker became the main television sport, with its leading player, Steve Davis, recognized as one of the greatest sportsmen Britain has produced.

The success has brought its own problems. Expansion — finding new territories and giving the growing supply of new players access to the professional ranks — television, sponsorship and money all brought problems.

So has greater exposure. If tennis had to bear the cross of McEnroe, snooker has had Alex Higgins, and has been no more successful in dealing with its disciplinary problems. Its image has not been helped by stories of drug-taking, not by a police investigation into suspected match-fixing, and it has been bedevilled with political in-fighting.

But the main problem, and one which exercises most minds most of the time, has been over-money. For, incredibly, the growth sport of the Eighties has entered the Nineties in the red, giving an edge to the debate about how the game should be administered, and by whom.

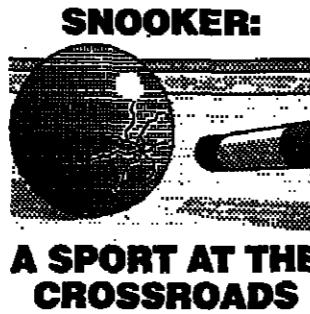
Professional snooker is run by the board of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), which in theory is the organization serving the 128 tournament professionals, with an office and administrative staff in Bristol.

So far, so uncontroversial, although some critics believe that both the Bristol base and the administration itself leave a lot to be desired. "They couldn't organize a tournament in a snooker hall," one caustic journalist wrote, and the recent departure of the managing director, Paul Hatherell, suggested there was some support for that view outside the press room.

But it is the make-up of the WPBSA board and, in particular, fears of a power bloc being formed by the game's two leading managers, Barry Hearn and Ian Doyle, which generates the most heat.

"Nobody has real power, and so there is a constant power struggle," Terry Griffiths, whose world championship victory in 1979 was an important staging post on snooker's road to fame, observed. "Barry and Ian have some, some of the board have some, and the players have some."

"So they are all continually fighting each other. The only thing



World championship snooker commands a television audience of 4.5 million each night as it moves towards its finale at the Crucible in Sheffield at the weekend.

Today, Peter Ball launches a three-part inquiry by *The Times* into the people and power of snooker

that suffers is the betterment of his game, in terms of I can't see that changing."

Others go further. "It is time for a radical change in the make-up of the board," Rex Williams, one of the game's elder statesmen, and a former board chairman, says, "but I think to take the managers back on is a retrograde step. I'm not saying there shouldn't be dialogue with the managers, but the control of the sport should always remain in the hands of the players."

Doyle resigned from the board last autumn, also citing conflict of interests. While on the board, he had been fiercely critical of Hearn at the time when Hearn was frequently at loggerheads with the then WPBSA chairman, John Virgo, one of the game's leading players.

Virgo's leadership, however, did not prove an unqualified success.

THE TELEVISION VIEW

IN 1989 the BBC signed an £11 million contract with the WPBSA, giving them exclusive rights to the Embassy world championship, the Stormseal United Kingdom championship, the Rothmans Grand Prix and the Benson and Hedges Masters until 1996. The World Team Cup, won by Canada last month, was not included in that contract and the BBC has decided not to cover it again.

Keith Mackenzie, BBC's executive producer of snooker, says: "The World Cup has never returned the viewing figures that the other four events produce, but we are confident that there is a



Hand over the shoulder: Doyle, one of two managers on the board governing snooker, keeps a firm hold on Hearn, his prize asset

famous protégé) to promoting his own tournaments, an activity which previously had been solely in the hands of WPBSA.

Doyle is a Scottish businessman who could have stepped out of the pages of a William McIlvanney novel. A self-made millionaire, he operates from the John Spencer Snooker Centre at Stirling, handling Stephen Hendry and many of the up-and-coming players.

Doyle resigned from the board last autumn, also citing conflict of interests. While on the board, he had been fiercely critical of Hearn at the time when Hearn was frequently at loggerheads with the then WPBSA chairman, John Virgo, one of the game's leading players.

Virgo's leadership, however, did not prove an unqualified success.

A parochial game, in terms of level anyway, British, the search for expansion into an international arena led to some serious financial mistakes.

There was, too, the perennial problem of whose interests the game should be run in — the few top professionals, the mass of professionals, or an even wider group, with the professional ranks opened up to encompass a much wider base? From the days of Joe Davis, the senior pros had been tempted, understandably, perhaps, if regrettably, to restrict entries.

"The top players have always dictated how the game is run," Virgo says. "Going back to the days of Joe Davis, you only worked if Joe decided you could."

In 1977 there was a group of us called Virgo's Rebels. We called an extraordinary meeting to try to stop the top players' proposal that all the up-and-coming people should play off against each other, with only two going through to join 14 for the world championship finals.

"If I remember rightly, we only got it through because John Pulman overslept and missed the meeting. And two years later Terry Griffiths gave snooker the huge boost it needed by winning the world title at the first attempt. But he might not have got there at all that year if there had been only two qualifiers instead of 16."

"This did not reflect a loss of confidence in snooker. What it did reflect was a rationalization of our coverage of snooker and all other sports. September is a bad time of year to broadcast long stints of sport and we decided to concentrate on our three main events

but their recommendations to open up the game were rejected at an extraordinary general meeting last week in Sheffield and now they must think again. Those proposals included giving professional status next season to the 30 top amateurs and those professionals who had lost their regular tournament status. They also included, somewhat ludicrously, giving tournament status to the "billiards-only players", some of whom never play snooker.

If the board had succeeded in gaining the support of the membership, they would then have invited Alison Fisher, the women's world champion, to play on the men's circuit next season, but they failed, chiefly because all the proposals were lumped together.

Together with Spencer and Foulds, they formed a sub-committee to get things moving again,

THE TELEVISION VIEW

LAST summer, ITV decided to end coverage of the first domestic event of the season, the International at Stoke-on-Trent in September, which prompted the sponsors, Fidelity Unit Trusts, to withdraw. Robert Charles, of Yorkshire TV, who has replaced Trevor East as ITV's executive producer of snooker, says:

"This did not reflect a loss of confidence in snooker. What it did reflect was a rationalization of our coverage of snooker and all other sports. September is a bad time of year to broadcast long stints of sport and we decided to concentrate on our three main events

in the winter time.

"ITV and BBC both knew that we were going to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs if we swamped people with snooker. I think the future looks very good for the game and one indicator of this was that Pearl Assurance came in on a long-term contract to sponsor our flagship event, the British Open."

"Sponsors do their sums to see if it is worth it and obviously they thought it was. Another indicator came at the Mercantile Credit Classic in January. We had the worst possible scenario, the big names being knocked out, but we still had good viewing figures."

gather, therefore giving the players no option to vote down the unpopular measures while supporting the popular ones.

Spencer cuts an excellent public figure, but, given Doyle's close association with Spencer, there are suspicions that a cartel has taken over. And what happened to the conflict of interest?

Could Alex Higgins, in that emotional blast as he made his exit from the world championship, have been "far off the target when he said 'this game is the most corrupt game in the world'?"

Doyle admits: "It could be viewed as a cartel, there are conflicts of interest, and that could be unhealthy, but over the years snooker has had almost total conflicts of interests. The players have conflicts of interests between the good of the game and their own vested interest in maintaining a closed shop. And you could say that is true in management, too — that Barry and I manage our own players and our first obligation is to them. But the game was so badly mismanaged that somewhere along the line we had to be realistic and apply what business acumen we had to sort it out."

"And in the long term we won't stay on the board any longer than we need to to see that the association is put back on a firm footing financially."

Hearns has quarrels with Doyle over, or at least contained by mutual agreement behind closed doors, has a similar interpretation. "Of course, there can be a conflict of interests," he says. "Vested interests come into play, and of course I'm going to support things which benefit me and my players. I've got to, and I wouldn't be human otherwise. And I said to myself: 'You shouldn't be on the board, you can run rings round this lot, leave them to run things, and you be seen to be clean.'

"In a business sense, the old board didn't know what they were doing. It was frustrating to work with them because I had no respect for them as businessmen."

"But the price of this flash of integrity was total chaos, financial disaster. In the course of 18 months after I came off the board, they were so far short of any sort of managerial or financial experience, they made so many mistakes, that they went from a £500,000 profit to a £500,000 loss ... in 18 months, when the turnover had doubled at the same time."

"So, until you can get an administrative set-up which is not only independent but also is devoid of ineptitude, then the only way to run the game is to leave it in the hands of people who know what they are doing."

TOMORROW
Who makes the money? And where does it go?

RUGBY LEAGUE

Australian passage is blocked

By Keith Macklin

PLAYERS who pull out of the tour of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand will not be allowed to accept summer contracts in Australia. This announcement was made by the Rugby Football League (RFL) yesterday, and puts to an end conjecture that many players who will miss the tour because of family "personal reasons" will then sign lucrative contracts to play in Sydney.

David Howes, the RFL's public affairs executive, said: "We are a members' game, and both the British and Australian Leagues, who will hold the registrations of players, have agreed that touring is paramount. The status of international tours is much more important than the earnings of international players and we would expect the country to back our position."

Among those affected are the Great Britain captain, Ellery Hanley, his Wigan team-mates, Andy Gregory and Steve Hampson, and the Widnes players, David and Paul Hulme and Les Holliday. It was also anticipated that Martin Offiah, of Widnes, would pull out.

Wigan yesterday announced what is almost certainly the longest club sponsorship in the history of the game, a £500,000 package deal. Nonetheless, with bonuses and performance incentives, could eventually be as high as £750,000.

Maurice Lindsay, the Wigan chairman, said: "Much of the money will be spent on ground development."

Meanwhile, the RFL has announced staggered kick-off times for the premiership semi-finals on May 6. Leeds and Widnes will start at 3pm with Wigan and Bradford Northern starting at 6.30.

Nominations were announced yesterday for the RFL's Man of Steel ceremony on May 10. First division nominations were Andy Goodwin and Andy Platt, both of Wigan, and Deryck Fox of Featherstone Rovers.

TEXACO CRICKETLINE

COMPOSITE CRICKET SCORE

0898

168

111



Presence of Richards makes Edgbaston focus of interest

By Marcus Williams

VIV Richards's probable first appearance for Glamorgan makes Edgbaston the focus of attention in the opening round of Benson and Hedges Cup group matches today. Jelagh permitting after his arrival in England from Antigua yesterday, he will play his first county game since leaving Somerset in acrimonious circumstances four years ago.

Worcestershire hope to include Donald, who joined them in 1987 and relishes the prospect of his first encounter with Richards. Donald will have a test this morning, who will be awaiting his second meeting in three days. Dennis Ambrose, his fellow Antiguan, is expected to make his first appearance.

Ambrose, fresh from his destructive efforts against England in the Caribbean, returns for Northamptonshire in the other group D match against Warwickshire. Their second meeting in three days, Dennis Ambrose, his fellow Antiguan, is expected to make his first appearance.

Judicious selection is the key for Worcestershire, who meet Gloucestershire in group A tomorrow at Cheltenham.

Nottinghamshire, who beat Lancashire, will be facing a difficult task against MCC and the Sunday match against Somerset, is in a party of 13 travelling to Bristol and is following a carefully planned programme because of long-standing difficulties with his right knee.

Having beaten Lancashire, MCC and Nottinghamshire, the tourists will be looking to extend their winning record to four consecutive wins.

Richmond, the traditional early starters, will be facing a difficult task against the visitors from the West Indies. Sussex do not

want to rush him back and the presence of Malcolm and Bishop in the opposition's attack should the latter be preferred to Kuiper, the South African all-rounder, for the overseas place, may keep Smith out for a little longer.

Judicious selection is the key for Gloucestershire, who meet Northamptonshire in group B tomorrow at Northampton.

Warwickshire, who beat Lancashire, will be facing a difficult task against MCC and the Sunday match against Somerset, is in a party of 13 travelling to Bristol and is following a carefully planned programme because of long-standing difficulties with his right knee.

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SPORT

TUESDAY APRIL 24 1990

A final chance to press claims for trips to Italy

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

THE door to England's World Cup squad will close, with an almost audible creak, within the next 48 hours. After the internationals against Czechoslovakia at the end of last July, has yet to collect a full cap. Seaman owns only one.

Webb, the most regular of Bryan Robson's partners since the last World Cup, must prove only his fitness to be back in contention for his usual position against the Danes next month. Unlike almost all the other representatives, he ideally needs games rather than a prolonged rest.

He has not played for England since he ruptured an Achilles tendon in Sweden last September. Yet that is a short break compared to that of Cowans. He has been out in the cold since the triumphant visit to Tbilisi in the Soviet Union more than four years ago.

Gascoigne has been promised another full appearance, only the second of his brief and colourful career, and he should make the most of the opportunity tomorrow night. Otherwise, Cowans could yet gain a belated personal reward for his outstanding contribution to Aston Villa's progress in the first division this season.

It was then, less than three months before the World Cup, that Beardsley made such an impact that not only did he go to Mexico but he also played a prominent part there. Apart from Webb and a goalkeeper, only Adams and perhaps Cowans can hope to follow his exalted path.

Though technically limited, and especially when opposing the smaller and quicker forwards who will be prevalent in Italy, Adams is considered to be marginally ahead of Wright in the competition for a place as the understudy for Butcher.

"Bobby Robson has a good idea which one he will take," Sexton said, "but it is difficult; there is not much between

Yorath questions timing of match

From Ian Ross
Stockholm

THE ability of Terry Yorath, the manager of Wales, to smile in the face of familiar adversity served him well yesterday as his squad arrived here to commence preparations for tomorrow night's international against Sweden.

Yorath admitted that the withdrawal at the weekend of Ian Rush (Liverpool), Brian Law (Queen's Park Rangers) and Dean Saunders (Derby County) came as no surprise to him and he questioned the wisdom of scheduling international fixtures at one of English football's most important domestic phases.

"I think that at this time of the year you must, as the manager of an international team, take it on the chin," he said. "To be honest, I expected to lose three or four players

them." Beasant, though he represented the senior side as a substitute against Italy and Yugoslavia at the end of last July, has yet to collect a full cap. Seaman owns only one.

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McAllister, aged 25, who shone in last month's B team match against Yugoslavia, will make his full international debut tomorrow against East Germany at Hampden Park, in place of the injured Jim Bett, of Aberdeen, who suffered a hamstring injury at the weekend.

Perhaps it is not, because there are very few clubs in England who have nothing left to play for even at this late stage in the season," he added. "Wales will play their first under-21 international since 1984 when they entertain the Poland under-21 side at Merthyr Tydfil on May 19.

Roxburgh said: "Bett would definitely have played, so I have decided on Gary as a straight replacement. He was impressive last month in the B team and this is an opportunity for him to show what he can do on the big stage."

Roxburgh also revealed that the Hibernian goalkeeper, Andy Goram, will start the game, while the Rangers forward, Maurice Johnston, will return after being omitted for last month's game against Argentina.

• Alex McLeish, of Aberdeen, has been named as the Scottish Football Writers' Association's Player of the Year for the first time. The central defender, aged 31, will win his 68th cap for Scotland tomorrow.

• John Sheridan, the Sheffield Wednesday midfield player, has been denied a late call up to the Republic of Ireland squad for the match against the Soviet Union tomorrow because of an ankle injury.

The Yorkshire champion fell off the pace of the third game after a long and patient

Hornet out in under an hour

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Out in front: Devoy, of New Zealand, retrieves a ball from Horner

Devoy destroys hopes of unexpected upset

By Colin McQuillan

HOPE of an unexpected home breakthrough in the Hi-Tec British Open squash championships were destroyed in just 56 minutes at Wembley last night when Susan Devoy, the tough defending champion from New Zealand, rose above indifferent form and obvious nerves to defeat Suzanne Horner, of Yorkshire, 9-2, 9-9, 9-3, 9-3.

Horner, aged 27, and seeded only twelfth for this championship, had removed the world champion, Martine Le Moignan, in her way to last night's final, but could not quite match the determination of the world No. 1.

Devoy was fidgety from the outset in pursuit of a seventh successive win after an unusually light competitive preparation this year. Severely tested in the semi-finals by Michelle Martin, of Australia, the younger sister of the men's finalist, Rodney Martin, she earned the first game of the final mostly from the error count of her opponent and lost the second in just nine minutes, seemingly bemused by Horner's refusal to abandon her own shots into that area and thus deliver herself up to that famous killing shot eight times in the closing rallies.

There were moments in the third game when it seemed

Horner would return in her recently successful manner. At 1-7, a forehand cross-court lob played at full stretch in the front and delivered beyond retrieving in the deep left corner, signalled a tremendous roar of anticipation from the crowd of 3,000 in the Wembley Conference Centre.

A back-hand mid-court volley drop, which completely wrong-footed Devoy, and the successful penalty stroke appeared in the back hand court reinforced suggestions of counter-attack.

"She hit such a perfect length to the deep forehand that you have to boast out, and then she kills you in the corner. I kept feeding it in and she was happy to keep killing it," Horner said. Devoy was just relieved to get it over.

RESULTS: Men: Sem-final: John Khan (Pak) bt C Danner (Aus), 9-4, 9-6, 9-2, 10-8, 9-6, 10-8; Final: S. Devoy (NZ) bt M Martin (Aus), 9-6, 10-8, 9-2, 9-3, 9-2. Final: Devoy bt S Horner (Eng), 9-2, 9-3, 9-2, 9-3, 9-2. Consolation (Masters): S. Horner (Lancs), 9-10, 9-3, 9-2, 9-3; I Robinson (York) bt A Aziz (Egypt), 9-2, 9-4, 9-5.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Footballer threatened

LUDWIGSBURG, West Germany (Reuters) - Thomas Haessler, West Germany's most expensive footballer, has been put under 24-hour guard after a kidnap threat. He has been given a bodyguard, football officials say.

Last week Haessler, a midfield player, was sold by Cologne to the Italian club, Juventus, in a deal worth more than £5.3 million, a Bundesliga record. He will move to Italy after the World Cup finals.

Out of bunker

East Berlin (Reuters) - East Germans, long barred from playing the "capitalist" sport of golf, have founded the country's first golf association and their first club could open in Dresden by June.



Collins: back injury

Collins out

Steve Collins has withdrawn with a back injury from his WBC international super-middleweight title bout against the American, Stacey McGraw, at the London Arena tomorrow.

• Chris Eubank, the middleweight, who defends his WBC international middleweight crown in Brighton tomorrow, has been rated No. 5 by WBA.

Final meeting

Barnsley Sixth Form College meet Harvey GS in the English Schools FA Barclays under-19 final for county champions at Gillingham tonight.

Golf captain

Mary McKenna, the Irish champion, will captain Great Britain and Ireland in the women's world amateur golf team championship for the Espirito Santo Trophy in New Zealand from October 18-21.

Unbeaten run

England's 16-group schoolboys returned home yesterday from their two-match visit to the Iberian peninsula after an unbeaten international season. Their 35-3 victory over Spain in Benidorm over the weekend was the most spectacular of their wins, following success against Italy and Portugal.

Brasher reacts to possibility of BBC repeat

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

CHRIS Brasher, the race director of the ADT London Marathon, was not exactly calling for heads to roll as he delivered his summung-up in the vicinity of the Tower of London yesterday. But his criticism of those involved with television coverage and the timing of the race did not fall far short.

Millions of viewers who tuned into BBC on Sunday morning were unable to follow Alison Huison's solo run to victory and the belated attempt by others to catch her because a low cloud base prevented helicopters from taking off to beam pictures into the nation's living rooms.

For most of the race the commentators were reliant on Alan Storey, a coach who had a privileged view from the lead vehicle, and Veronique Marot, the holder of the fastest time by a British woman, to relay in words a story that had been promised in pictures. Even David Coleman admitted on air that they were having to "make-and-mend".

That signal goes all over the world and it was not up to par," Brasher said, adding that it would have to improve when the World Cup marathon is held in conjunction with London next year. "We have four more years to run with the BBC and we have huge powers to make changes," Brasher said. "The BBC also has its pride."

What they do not have is the technology. An ITV spokesman agreed yesterday that without the helicopters, or possibly a blimp (hot air balloon), the problem was technologically insurmountable. A BBC spokesman said: "We were using the most up-to-date technology. It was just an unfortunate accident of the weather and we did as best we could. With outside broadcast studios to beam pictures into the houses, it was having to "make-and-mend".

After discussions with the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) yesterday, the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) has selected Nicola McCracken for the European championships in Split this summer. McCracken was the first British woman to finish in London but doubts were raised about her eligibility because she had competed in five runs in South Africa until 1988.

McCracken was born in Scotland and holds a British passport and Tony Ward, the BAAB spokesman, said: "They believe she is qualified." The board had guaranteed European championship places to the first man and woman in London.

Medals lost

TEN thousand "goodie" bags and at least 1,100 medals were missing during the London Marathon on Sunday (Match). Michael Coleman writes: ADT, the main sponsor, had provided 35,000 bags, but although there were only 24,811 registered finishers, Chris Brasher, the race director, said yesterday: "We fell short. They ran out. Ten thousand bags were walkabout. An element of robbery evidently crept in." Derrick Pollard, in charge of race administration, ordered 25,500 medals to be minted but instead of having a surplus he had to leave 500 runners empty-handed.

This was no time for the Times dinner to jam. It was noticed that a stream of identical times were coming through to the operations room of Unisys, the minister's official computer company.

"The Unisys service was magnificent, but I can't say the same about the timing company," Brasher said.

According to Brasher, Rose Morris, the Olympic champion, has confirmed she will take the eleventh London Marathon seriously after running half of the test for charity. After criticism that London was struggling to compete with the commercial spring marathons in Boston and Rotterdam, he gleefully announced that the average times recorded by the first 10 men — 2hr 11min 07sec — and by the first 10 women — 2hr 29min 39sec — were the fastest.

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